

MAKING A FORTUNE FROM THE WEB:
How Scarborough boy Keith Teare found riches in Silicon Valley
NETWORK, WITH PAGES OF JOBS

ENOUGH TO DRIVE YOU TO DRUGS:
Lorna Luft on life with Judy Garland
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IS YOUR BREAKFAST MAKING YOU ILL?
When health foods can be too much of a good thing
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HIGGINS VERSUS DOHERTY:
Guy Hodgson reports from Sheffield on last night's snooker final
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THE INDEPENDENT

Newsprint of the Year for photographs

Tuesday 5 May 1998 45p (R50p) No 3,602

Today's news
Peace woman forced to move

THE Protestant co-leader of the non-sectarian Northern Ireland Women's Coalition has had to move home because of intimidation by loyalists. Pearl Sagar, who was instrumental in founding the campaigning group for peace, moved out of her previous home in east Belfast after she suffered abuse from Protestants who felt she was letting down the community. **Page 2**

Universities lower science standards

STANDARDS of entry for science degree courses are lower than they were 20 years ago even in long-established universities, a new study has shown. The research from Brunel University reveals that universities have had to lower standards because not enough bright sixth-formers are choosing to read maths and science. Researchers found that the requirements for entry to science courses in old universities had fallen by about half an A-level grade. **Page 3**

Mine campaign

A 22-year-old artist has brought together some of the biggest names from the worlds of politics, sport, design, music and a host of other disciplines to join in the fight against landmines. With no money and only a vision to spur her on, Rebekah Gilbertson persuaded the rich and famous to contribute an image of a hand or foot to be published in a booklet entitled *Handlines*. **Page 3**

Tories target drivers

THE Tories are to become the car drivers' champions as party strategists seized an opportunity to cash in on motorists' fears that greener transport will cost them money. Sir Norman Fowler, will kick off the campaign today with a series of Parliamentary questions and an attack on plans for a series of new taxes on motorists. **Page 8**

Red faces at Louvre

THE Louvre lost a painting on Sunday and 20,000 people lost their tempers. It was not the biggest or the most valuable painting in the Louvre, but it was gone. All entrances to the building were blocked by police for nearly three hours. **Page 5**

Business news

Markets muted

CITY traders who turned up for work yesterday found themselves twiddling their thumbs as European financial markets gave a muted reaction to the weekend's "ECB presidency fudge". **Pages 10 and 20**

Sports news

United lift gloom

MANCHESTER United lifted the gloom over Old Trafford following Arsenal's championship triumph by beating Leeds United 3-0 yesterday. **Sport, page 27**

Drugs 'kill cancer tumours'

By Kate Watson-Smyth

A COMBINATION of drugs which has been found by researchers in the United States to kill tumours in mice was last night hailed as a significant breakthrough in the search for a cure for cancer. The news took Wall Street by storm as shares in the company hoping to market the drugs leapt nearly six-fold. The drugs, angiostatin and endostatin, work by cutting off the blood supply to the tumours. When the drugs were given intravenously to mice, tumours shrunk before disappearing altogether. They also appear to prevent the spread of tumours.

Dr Judah Folkman, a Harvard professor and researcher at Boston Children's Hospital who discovered the treatment, called the combination of proteins "very promising", but warned that their success might not work on humans. "We have to be careful with expectations," he said. It is impossible to speculate which types of human cancer might respond to the new drugs, but Dr Folkman said that they had eliminated forms of colon, prostate, breast and brain cancers in mice. So far, he added, researchers had not found a form of cancer in mice which they could not defeat. Dr Richard Klausner, director of the US National Cancer Institute, said the initial studies were remarkable and that he hoped to start testing on a small number of humans within a year. "I am putting nothing on higher priority than getting this into clinical trials," he told the *New York Times*. Shares in Entremed, of Maryland - which is hoping to market the two drugs - started trading on the Nasdaq stock exchange at \$12.06, at one point reached \$85, but later settled back to \$59.

In London, Professor Karol Sikora, head of the World Health Organisation's cancer programme, said it was a "very exciting development" but warned that it would be a long time before it was available as a treatment. "It is one of the most exciting things that is on the horizon, but if people have cancer now, I'm afraid it won't help them at all," he said. "It will be two years before we know if it works. We have been this close to success before and it just hasn't panned out. There is a long way to go between the animal experiments which have been done successfully and getting a drug which works successfully for a cancer patient each time. It very definitely works in mice, but the trouble is we don't know whether you can transfer this to humans," Professor Sikora said.

Professor Adrian Harris, head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund medical oncology unit, and an expert on angiogenesis, said: "This is an extension of previous work on endostatin which was published last year. Endostatin, when given alone, has shown to have an anti-tumour effect, as has angiostatin. The two drugs work using different mechanisms, and using them together has a marked difference on tumour growth in experimental systems." The development of the drugs - which are fragments of protein found in human blood - is the end of a 30-year research process. Tumours need blood vessels to provide them with the nutrients

and growth factors, which they use to grow unchecked. Endostatin, the most powerful inhibitor of blood-vessel growth known, is a protein that has to be injected. However, it is also expensive and may have long-term toxic side-effects. The new proteins eliminate the flow of blood to the tumour. In addition, tumours treated with endostatin do not develop a resistance to the drug, as they can do with chemotherapy drugs. In one experiment, when protein treatments were stopped among some mice, their tumours returned. But once the drugs were re-administered continuously, the tumours receded.



Gary Trotter, who objects to his son's Catholicism, being ejected from a church where the boy was making his First Communion

Photograph: INS

Father in unholy row over son's communion

By Diana Blamires

IT SHOULD have been a sacred moment - a child making his First Communion, watched by friends and family. Instead, it turned into a brawl, with the father ejected from the church and the police called.

Members of the congregation at Our Lady of Peace Catholic church in Burnham, Buckinghamshire, put Gary Trotter, 41, in a headlock before dragging him out. One worshipper shouted that he wanted to "ethnically cleanse" him.

The trouble began when Mr Trotter, who objected to his son Luke becoming a Catholic, approached the priest who conducted the service, Fr Tony Brennan, to hand over a letter and explain to worshippers what he was doing. It was then that members of the congregation pounced on him. Fr Brennan tried to intervene but more churchgoers leapt on Mr Trotter. Women burst into tears and a man threatened to kill Mr Trotter, who claims his son's school is indoctrinating him into the Catholic faith against his will.

He said Luke had "told me on several occasions he did not want to take part in the church service and I have tried for several months to tell the school and the priest about this." Luke is at Our Lady of Peace School in Burnham. His mother, Jacqueline Corrie, who is separated from Mr Trotter, had consented to his taking part in the service. A spokesman for the Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees said that they had sought legal advice before the ceremony. "Luke's presence at the school and the ... wishes of his mother were reasons enough for accepting he should make his First Holy Communion."

Middle East agrees: peace deal is dead

By Robert Fisk

Middle East Correspondent

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU and Yasser Arafat came to London yesterday, dragged the corpse of the Oslo Agreement out of its coffin and - with respective satisfaction and despair - threw it back into the ground. Hours of fruitless talks between the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and Israeli and Palestinian leaders - they were due to meet separately again last night - proved that the "peace process" for which President Clinton promised his full support in 1993 is in effect dead. The losers - at least for now - are the Palestinians.

The day began with individual visits to Downing Street by Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat, both of whom thanked the Prime Minister for his encouragement, but then went on to blame each other for the collapse of the Oslo agreement.

Mr Arafat warned of "chaos" in the Arab world if the original land-for-peace deal agreed in Washington was not fulfilled. Mr Netanyahu's spokesman warned that if the deal was "land-for-terrorism", Israel could no longer continue talking. Mr Netanyahu's advisers remained publicly optimistic, talking in hopeful soundbites. Israel had gone the "extra mile", Mr Netanyahu himself said. But US officials apparently did not discover what this extra mile was. Nor - in five hours of mostly intense talks with Mr Netanyahu - did Mrs Albright.

The Palestinians openly admitted that they now accepted a forthcoming Israeli withdrawal from only 13 per cent of occupied Palestinian land, which was America's "compromise" proposal to break Mr Netanyahu's insistence on giving up only another nine per cent. But a glance at the original Oslo agreement shows what a mockery the discussions have now

become of the document so solemnly signed by Israel and the PLO five years ago. Under the terms of the September 13, 1993 treaty, Israel should now have withdrawn from much of the West Bank and Gaza strip in preparation for final status talks on refugees and settlements next year. But the PLO still control only four per cent of the land for themselves - a larger part is under joint Israeli and Palestinian control - and Mr

Netanyahu, far from discussing Jewish settlements next year, is busy building more occupied land close to Jerusalem. Mr Arafat, who is supposed to be in charge of security in PLO territory, now boasts 12 intelligence services (he is allowed three under Oslo) and his secret service men have killed 14 Palestinians in PLO detention.

Yet he is now being asked by the Israelis to demonstrate greater security for them with fewer policemen; his 40,000 police are way over the Oslo permitted figure. The figures of 13 per cent and nine per cent over which the two sides are now haggling bear no relation to the any paragraph in the Oslo agreement.

While Mrs Albright lunched with the Israeli leader at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Mr Arafat sat in his suite at Claridges hotel, expressing his ever greater resentment at being kept waiting. "We only came because the Amer-

icans asked us," Saeb Erekat, one of his ministers, said. Mrs Albright called to apologise, but Mr Arafat then kept her waiting for half an hour before turning up at the Churchill Hotel.

As photographers took their pictures in the conference room, Mr Arafat sat in silence, staring for much of the time at the floor.

He left within 90 minutes, unsmiling and in silence. "The Palestinians have accepted the figure of 13 per cent," Mr Erekat said. "But what we see is the full implementation of Oslo ... we are not optimistic about the talks." In the Churchill Hotel, US officials glumly admitted that the "peace process" appeared to be near an end.

Behind them in the lobby stood the bust of Winston Churchill, himself a fervent Zionist but one who by 1948 pronounced Palestine a "hell-disaster". He would have said the same again yesterday. **Door to peace, page 9**



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Ulster peace woman forced out of home

By Kim Sengupta
in Belfast

THE Protestant co-leader of the noo-sectarian Northern Ireland Women's Coalition has had to move home because of intimidation by loyalists.

Pearl Sagar, who founded the campaigning group for peace with Monica McWilliams, a Catholic, moved to her pre-set address from her previous home in east Belfast after she

and her husband, Chris, a former British soldier who served in Northern Ireland, suffered abuse from Protestants who felt she was letting down the community.

Ms Sagar moved to a new home a while ago, but she decided not to publicise the matter or spend time complaining about what happened. Instead she says, it made her determined to carry on with her work so that others would not

have to "put up with this sort of nonsense" in the future.

She has, however, a long way to go. Her 18-year-old daughter, Naomi, has been asked to stay away from the same Protestant area because her fiancé is a Catholic.

The work of the coalition, which seeks to cut across class as well as religious barriers, has been widely praised, among others, by Nelson Mandela, Bill Clinton and the British

government. However, they have become targets for hard-liners opposed to the settlement.

Ms Sagar said: "The decision to move came because of intimidation. It all got a bit much at the end, and I feel rather sad that it happened. I saw no point in drawing too much attention to it by going on about it."

"Naomi's fiancé is a Catholic, and when she went into a pub in the same area she was told to stay away. I suppose

those people may have felt she would hear something and then the nationalists get to hear about it. But that is, of course, nonsense—she would not have done anything like that. Anyway, she and her fiancé have shrugged it off and are just getting on with life."

"I find it odd that people should put so much stress on religion. When I met my husband, Chris, it did not occur to me if he was a Protestant or a

Catholic. It was years before we discussed the matter."

Ms Sagar and Ms McWilliams founded the coalition two years ago and then two places at the Northern Ireland forum and Stormont after polling more than 7,000 votes in their first election. The coalition will be campaigning for a "yes" vote in the referendum and will then decide whether to run candidates for the subsequent election.

Ms Sagar said: "We moved homes a while ago, and one can only hope things are getting better."

"There is a great mood of change and people are fed up with politics on sectarian lines. I was not really interested in politics until I joined the coalition, and all we are trying to do is put forward the expectations and worries of ordinary people."

Dealing with diehards, page 6

Police hunt killer

A KILLER who stabbed his victim with a 9in knife was being hunted by police at a seaside resort last night.

Mark Ogden, 22, was killed on Sunday night in a flat in Torquay and police are still hunting the weapon, thought to have a triangular-shaped blade and possibly a black handle.

The killer is described as a 6ft, white, aged 18 or 19, and with skinhead style hair.

'End of canteens'

FIRMS might replace staff canteens with food vending machines next year, when the national minimum wage is introduced. A Staffordshire-based vending company, Springbank Industries, said it was predicting massive growth in the use of vending machines in offices as a direct result of the minimum wage.

Holiday hold-up

THOUSANDS of motorists who spent their bank holiday Monday heading for the coast were stuck in three-mile tailbacks after a horsebox carrying two horses overturned and shut one of Britain's busiest motorways. The M20 near West Malling in Kent, had to be closed yesterday lunchtime because of the accident.

Scots factory 'safe'

GORDON BROWN was yesterday assured that a £2bn microchip plant planned for Scotland by a South Korean electronics giant will be completed despite the Asian economic crisis.

The Chancellor, on a fact-finding tour of Asia, was reassured by executives of the Hyundai company in Seoul about the plant, which is earmarked for Dunfermline and could create up to 1,800 jobs.

Wright on song

STEVE WRIGHT is to front the European end of a global pop show to be launched by CNN next month. The BBC DJ will present the show on World Beat, which the makers promise will be "the first ever truly global music album chart".

Injured boxer still critical

By Kate Watson-Smyth

SPENCER OLIVER, the boxer who had emergency surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain after collapsing during a bout at the Royal Albert Hall, remained in a critical condition last night.

A spokeswoman at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London, said the super-bantamweight was still in a "critical but stable" condition.

She said the 22-year-old boxer's condition had not improved during the day and he was still on a ventilator in intensive care.

Oliver, who was recently named Young Boxer of the Year, had a three-hour operation on Saturday to remove a blood clot after being knocked down in the 10th round as he

defended his European title against the Ukrainian Sergei Devakov.

He was treated for 15 minutes in the ring before being stretchered away to Charing Cross Hospital, apparently unconscious. He was transferred to the neurological hospital for emergency treatment.

Doctors have said that if he survives he could be found to have suffered brain damage.

The seriousness of his condition has sparked renewed calls from the British Medical Association for boxing to be outlawed.

But Tony Banks, the Sports minister, yesterday rejected the demand as unrealistic. "Going for a ban is not the answer to this situation and it certainly isn't one that the Government is contemplating. But I do believe that there is a case to look at the way that boxing is organised."

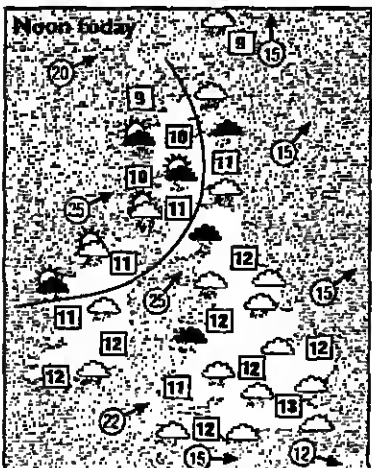


Skirting the issue: Chicken Shed Theatre Company actors trying out costumes in London yesterday for its production of Stravinsky's Rite Of Spring. The designs are by students at the London Institute, where the show will be staged from next Wednesday for four nights. Photograph: Rufi Xavier

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WEATHER



Rain over Northern Ireland and Scotland will be replaced by a mixture of sun and showers for a time. The best of any sunshine will be in eastern Scotland with the heaviest showers in the west, and scattered rain will return to Northern Ireland before evening. England and Wales will be mostly cloudy with rain spreading to many areas, although the heaviest will be in the north. In the south-west it will be drizzly and the south-east will stay dry and quite bright for a while.

Outlook for the next few days
Unsettled and breezy through Wednesday and Thursday with blustery showers across Scotland, some heavy and prolonged in the north and west, with the best sunny spells in the east. Further south it will be cloudier, although the far south will be dry for a while. On Friday and Saturday rain over Wales and central England will move northwards into Northern Ireland and southern Scotland, leaving it warm across southern England.

British Isles weather

next most reliable figure at most local time
C: cloudy; Cl: clear; F: fog; H: high; M: mist; R: rain; S: sunny; St: storm; Sh: shower; Ss: snow; Th: thunder.

Aberdeen	C 13.55	Glasgow	C 12.54
Anglesey	C 12.54	Leamington	C 14.57
Ayr	F 13.55	Leicester	F 12.54
Belfast	F 14.57	London	F 15.59
Birmingham	C 14.57	Manchester	C 12.54
Blackpool	Dr 11.52	Newcastle	F 15.59
Bournemouth	F 16.61	Oxford	C 13.55
Brighton	F 12.54	Plymouth	C 13.55
Bristol	F 15.59	Reading	F 15.59
Cardiff	C 13.55	Sheffield	C 13.55
Carlisle	F 15.59	Southampton	F 15.59
Colchester	F 14.57	Stirling	F 15.59
Cork	F 16.61	Sunderland	F 15.59
Edinburgh	F 16.61	Torquay	F 15.59
Exeter	C 12.54	Wrexham	C 14.57
Glasgow	F 14.57	York	C 14.57

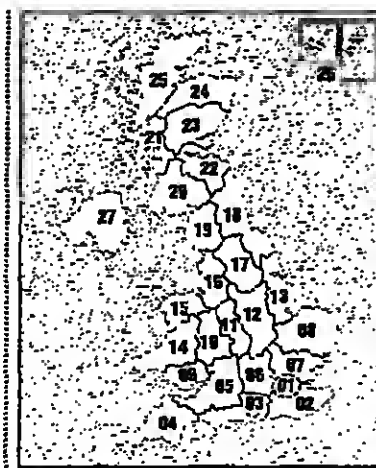
Air quality

Yesterday's readings

London	Good
South East	Good
Wales	Good
C. England	Good
N. England	Good
Scotland	Good
N. Ireland	Good

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

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INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest forecast dial 0851 500955 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT).

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	09:42	6.1	22:08	5.8
Liverpool	07:24	7.5	20:11	7.5
Abermouth	02:42	9.9	15:31	9.9
Hull (Albert Dock)	02:26	6.9	14:37	7.1
Greenock	07:49	2.8	21:38	2.7
Don Langhorne	06:08	3.6	20:54	3.4

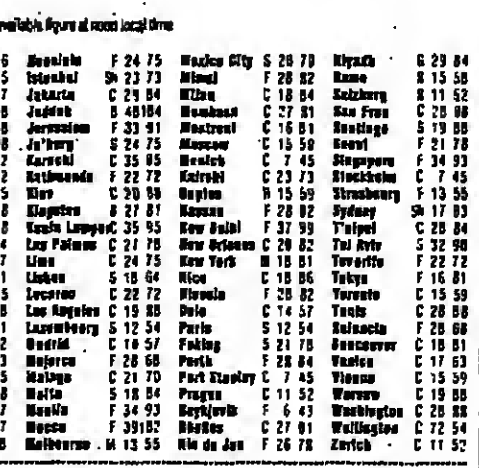
Lighting-up times

Belfast	21:05 to 05:35
Birmingham	20:40 to 05:27
Bristol	20:40 to 05:34
Cardiff	21:03 to 05:22
Glasgow	20:30 to 05:24
London	20:46 to 05:25
Manchester	20:43 to 05:16

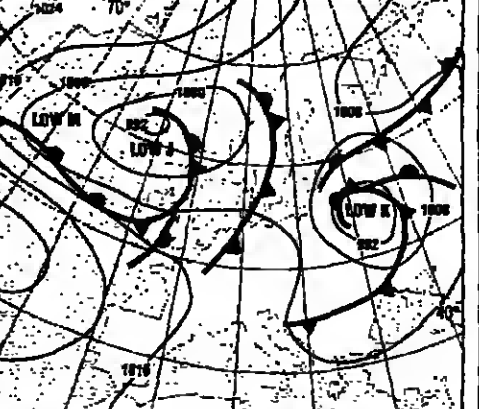
World weather

most recent available figures at local time

Aberdeen	C 13.55	Glasgow	C 12.54
Anglesey	C 12.54	Leamington	C 14.57
Ayr	F 13.55	Leicester	F 12.54
Belfast	F 14.57	London	F 15.59
Birmingham	C 14.57	Manchester	C 12.54
Blackpool	Dr 11.52	Newcastle	F 15.59
Bournemouth	F 16.61	Oxford	C 13.55
Brighton	F 12.54	Plymouth	C 13.55
Bristol	F 15.59	Reading	F 15.59
Cardiff	C 13.55	Sheffield	C 13.55
Carlisle	F 15.59	Southampton	F 15.59
Colchester	F 14.57	Stirling	F 15.59
Cork	F 16.61	Sunderland	F 15.59
Edinburgh	F 16.61	Torquay	F 15.59
Exeter	C 12.54	Wrexham	C 14.57
Glasgow	F 14.57	York	C 14.57



Atlantic chart, noon today



WILLIAM HARTSTON WEATHER WISE

FLOODING and mudslides in Ecuador have killed 214 people and left 42 missing in the past six months; civil defence officials blame El Niño. A drought in Brazil threatens to starve ten million; meteorologists attribute it to El Niño. Major floods are predicted for South China this summer: according to the Xinhua News Agency, this is "partly owing to El Niño".

On Saturday, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Department of Health said:

"As we go into the summer we may expect an increase in rats because of the El Niño weather conditions." And there's another worry too: killer bees. "The Africanized honey bees are coming because the rains have caused the desert to bloom."

A new game is storming the world. Anyone can play "Blame It On El Niño": all you need is a modicum of meteorology and a good imagination. Why was the first test match against the West Indies washed out? El Niño related downpours. Why were all the other tests so exciting? Because the El Niño related drought caused cracked and unpredictable pitches.

Why did Arsenal win the Premiership? Low pressure areas of damp, warm air, created by El Niño and carried by the Gulf Stream, dumped their rains on Manchester, casting depression over the area and letting the London side sweep past United.

And why do weather forecasters sometimes get things wrong? Well I blame El Niño. You can never tell what it's going to be blamed for next.

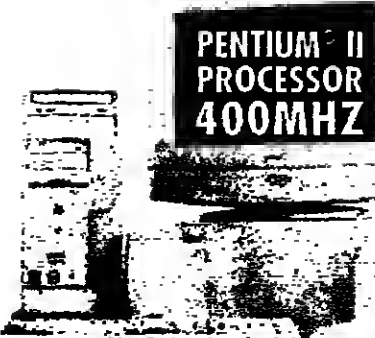
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Stars lend a hand to rid the world of the scourge of landmines

An impoverished art student asked celebrities to visualise their life without a limb. Steve Boggan reports

A 22-YEAR-OLD artist has brought together some of the biggest names from the worlds of politics, sport, design, music and a host of other disciplines to join in the fight against landmines.

With no money and only a vision to spur her on, Rebekah Gilbertson persuaded the rich and famous to contribute an image of a hand or foot to be published in a booklet entitled "Handlines".

The booklet will be launched tonight at the National Portrait Gallery and then copies will be sold in aid of the British Red Cross's Anti-Personnel Landmines Campaign.



Making a difference: Art student Rebekah Gilbertson Laurie Lewis

Among those who offered their support are the artist David Hockney, who provided an image of a hand holding up a small placard bearing the words "Love Life".

Others include footballer Ryan Giggs, Sir Elton John, violinist Lord Yehudi Menuhin, musician Joan Armatrading, sculptor Anthony Gormley, ballet dancer Darcey Bussell and guitarist Mark Knopfler.

Ms Gilbertson asked the 45 contributors to imagine what life would be like without a hand or foot - the reality faced every day by

hundreds of thousands of victims in 70 countries. According to the Red Cross, there are an estimated 119 million mines waiting to explode.

Among the worst affected countries are Iran (16 million mines), Angola (15 million), Iraq (10 million), Afghanistan (10 million), Cambodia (10 million), Bosnia Herzegovina (up to 6 million) and even Egypt, which is thought to have up to 23 million, many left over from the El Alamein campaign during the Second World War.

"In recent months, the campaign against the manufacture and use of landmines - thanks in part to the worldwide media attention accorded to Diana, Princess of Wales - has come to the forefront of public awareness," Ms Gilbertson writes in the booklet. "It was this attention which... prompted me as an artist to be aware of my hands as the tools vital to the expression of my creativity. From there, it was only a small further step which suggested this book."

In a foreword to Handlines, Martin Bell MP describes his own experiences of encountering landmines as a BBC war reporter and expresses frustration at the political difficulties in dealing with the problem.

"The rules of war require that maps be made of all minefields and that some distinction be kept between soldiers and civilians," said Mr Bell.

"Yet in the wars of the new world disorder, mines are often laid by retreating units without any record being made of them - or the only record may be stored in the memory of a soldier who laid them and was later killed."

Mr Bell adds: "This is more than just a question of saving lives. It is a question of returning countries to their peoples... What is needed now is a war of liberation, a war that is waged by the engines of peace and disarmament."

The photographer Ken Griffiths travelled to Angola and Cambodia to photograph victims of landmines for the book. Those who agreed to sit for portraits left him deeply moved.

"These faces told me that they were victims not only of landmines but also of ambitious politicians and greedy generals," he said.

"In those who chose to be photographed, all that remained to them in the midst of their universal grinding poverty was their dignity."



Donation: Fashion designer Stella McCartney's message of peace is one of dozens from celebrities in the 'Handlines' booklet

Decline in university standards for science

By Judith Judd
Education Editor

STANDARDS of entry for science degree courses are lower than they were 20 years ago even in long-established universities, a new study of 750,000 A-level students has shown.

The research from Brunel University reveals that universities have had to lower standards because not enough bright sixth-formers are choosing to read maths and science. Researchers found that on average, the requirements for entry to science courses in old universities had fallen by about half an A-level grade.

While popular subjects like medicine and dentistry had not dropped their requirements, engineering and technology had. Professor Alan Smithers and Dr Pamela Robinson suggest that the fall in standards for all universities will be greater because the former polytechnics generally take students with lower A-level grades.

The figures from the study, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, were compiled from a trawl through the records of all A-level entrants to the old universities between 1975 and 1993 when the polytechnics became universities. They show that the pattern of A-level study has changed dramatically. During that time, the number of A-level entrants to the old universities has grown by around 64 per cent but the number studying exclusively maths and science subjects at A-level has risen by just 0.1 per cent.

By contrast, the group of sixth-formers studying a mixture of arts and science at A-level, which was tiny in the Seventies, is up by 22 per cent and the

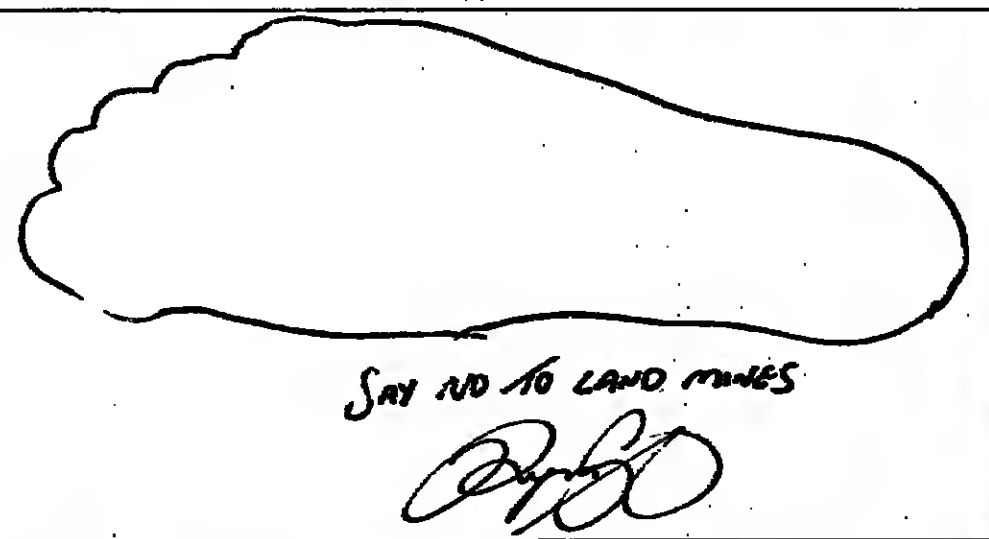
group studying non-science subjects has increased by 59 per cent. The shortfall in science applicants has been made up by students taking a mixture of arts and science at A-level.

In 1975, four out of five entrants to science courses came from the maths and science group. Now two out of five come from the mixed group. However, the students with the highest grades in the mixed group tend to choose social sciences such as economics and business studies rather than science.

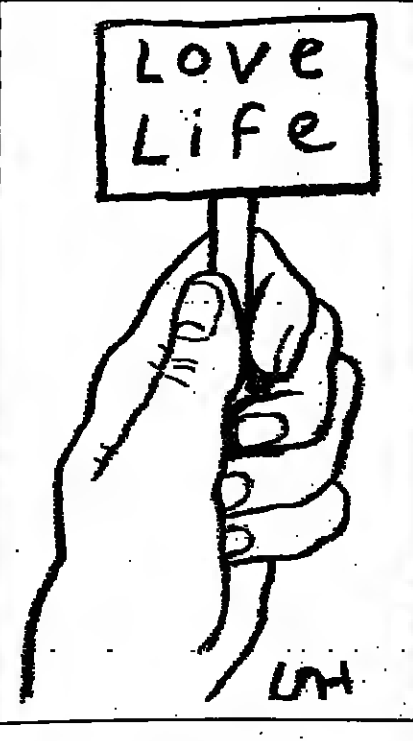
Dr Robinson, deputy director of Brunel's centre for education and employment research, said: "The system does seem to have compromised a bit on standards. The anecdotal evidence that there are not enough scientists and that they are of poorer quality is based on reality. Before we had an elite maths and science group entering university. Now we are seeing a much wider range of people." The findings have important implications, she says. The need to persuade more sixth-formers to study both arts and science is urgent.

Ministers have just announced a new exam to be taken after one year in the sixth form which aims to persuade young people to study five subjects for a year, but it has postponed plans for an over-arching diploma to include both arts, science and vocational subjects.

Dr Robinson said: "The restrictive three-subject A-level course is counter-productive to science. The Government's latest proposals do not go far enough. We need a five-subject structure which goes over two years." Meanwhile, universities need to take into account the fact that they are dealing with students with a wider range of ability.



Drawn to the campaign: Ryan Giggs donated a sketch of a foot (above), David Hockney gave a hand with a message (right) and Elton John's signed palm (below) carries the slogan 'death to all landmines'



Stella McCartney



Ryan Giggs



David Hockney



Elton John

Fat flies in griller warfare

By Kate Watson-Smyth

IT IS "griller warfare" with a difference. Burger King has launched a direct rival to McDonald's Big Mac, which, the company claims, has been a huge success in the US.

It said its new Big King was the first time it had gone head to head with McDonald's and claims that in taste tests, six out of 10 people preferred their product.

The new burger, like the Big Mac, has two burgers, cheese, lettuce, onion, pickles and a toasted sesame-seed bun. However,

the Big King weighs in at 4.4oz of beef, compared with the Big Mac's 3.2oz, is flame-grilled and is missing the middle layer of bread.

A spokeswoman for the company said that the Big King was different from other Burger King products because of the sauce, which has been specially developed to compete with that on the Big Mac.

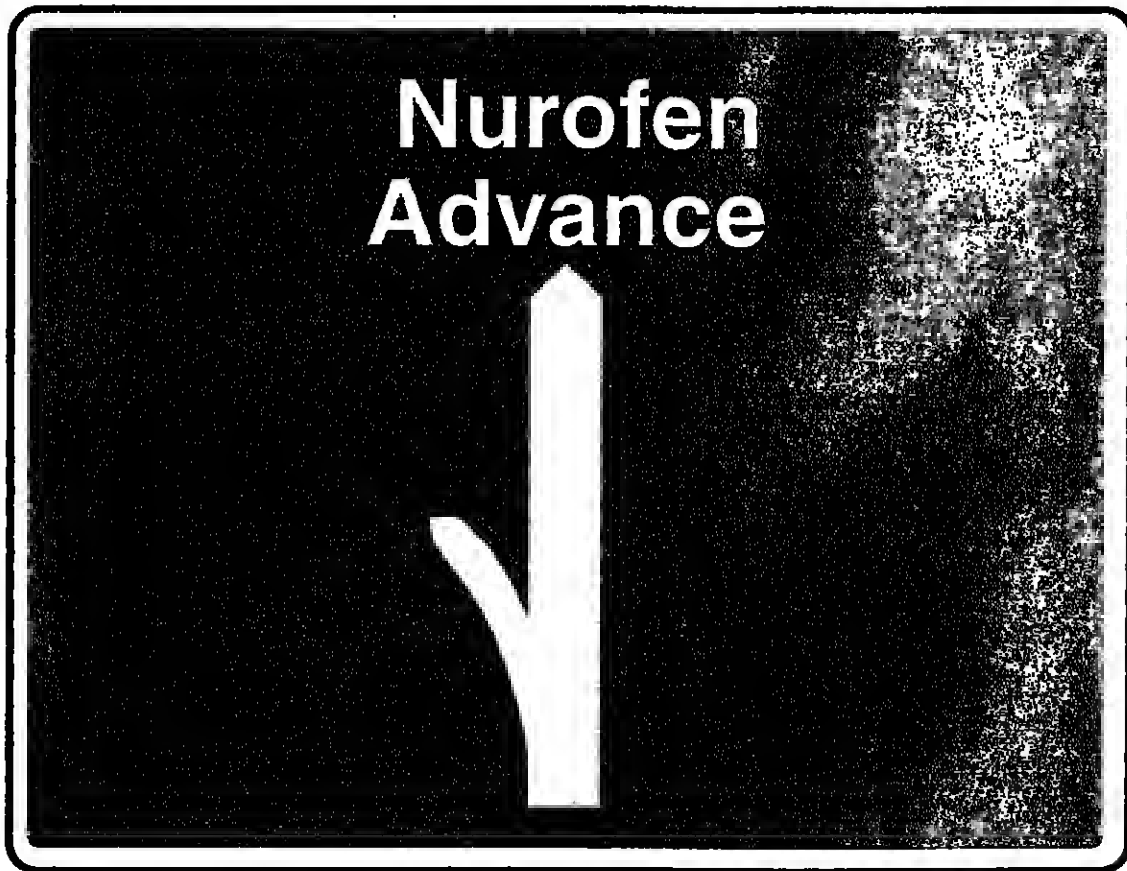
But McDonald's said it was supremely unconcerned by the new launch and would not be selling a "McWhopper" in the near future.

"We think this a product that they have tried to launch in a number of different

guises and it is nothing new," a spokeswoman said. "We have 77 per cent of the market in this country and we listen to our customers, so we have no need to pay any attention to our rivals."

"If we were number two then we would probably be trying everything we could to catch up, but as it is, we don't need to do that, so we don't need to worry."

Last year McDonald's, which trails behind Burger King in the US fast-food market, launched the Arch Deluxe to try to increase its market share, but it was not a success and was taken off the market shortly afterwards.



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Adams' family values

ARSENALS brilliant victory had a special glow for team captain Tony Adams. Just a few months ago his playing career looked doomed because of drink problems and injuries. But after a month's intensive rehabilitation in a clinic near Nice, Adams returned to say, after seeing what it had done to his life, "I hate alcohol". He went on to lead his team with inspiration on its way to victory in the Premiership. Some fans may wonder how Tony celebrated Sunday's triumph? Pandora's answer: like a true champion not some drunken yobbo. Wouldn't it be wonderful if more British athletes followed his example?

Surfing samaritans

IS SUICIDE now regarded as a laughing matter by the Samaritans? So it might appear to anyone who hears their tasteless "Don't hang up" radio recruitment ads. Pandora is happy to see that one alternative to this charity - which seems to have succumbed to trendy Nineties marketing mania - could be the Internet. Not only is the Net proving effective at saving lives, it's trying to catch murderers as well. Last week an unnamed British woman who posted a suicide note on the Net was rescued when an American read it on his computer and contacted local authorities in Leeds. She was treated at St James University Hospital and survived her drug and booze overdose. A few days later, a 29-year-old computer programmer in California confessed to his "online support group" for heavy drinkers that, three years earlier, he'd burned down his house in North Dakota and killed his sleeping 5-year-old daughter in order to "rid me of her mother's interferences", according to the *New York Times*. Three members of his group called the police and the man has now been charged with murder. Pandora salutes all these Net surfing samaritans.

Sport's digital exchange

THE Digital Revolution now wants to jump off our television screens and straight into our sports stadiums. Like many airplanes and cars, every seat in an arena may soon be equipped with small individual computers. These will allow spectators to call up instant replays, watch the action from various camera angles and send e-mail to managers and players. One American baseball stadium, in Phoenix, Arizona, already has installed these abominations. What is this rubbish? Apart from the tantalising prospect of 30,000 outraged Arsenal fans being able to e-mail their choicest insults to a visually challenged referee in the middle of a match, Pandora is appalled by this hi-tech device. The idea of attending a live event only to keep your eyes focused on a tiny computer screen - no doubt full of annoying ads for team-related merchandise - must be one of the most depressing technological "advances" of the late 20th century.

Pandora

DAILY POEM

Genghis Khan's Hat

By Lee Harwood

Genghis Khan loves his new native hat
sent by a feeble emperor far away.
He wears it all the time,
awake and asleep.

Drums and gongs beaten in the encampment.
Wars and skirmishes in the distance.
Coming and going. Fluttering banners.
Horses kick up dust, flying turf.

Among the tent's yellow silk draperies
we're here.
Mr. Maive Hat is out,
History is out.

The leaves of summer trees
the look in your eyes,
On a distant steppe now
a threadbare hat lying in coarse grass.

This poem comes from *Morning Light* (Slow Dancer Press, £6.99), the first collection for 10 years by Lee Harwood, who published his first volume in 1965 and appeared alongside John Ashbery and Tom Raworth in the influential *Penguin Modern Poets 19*.

Diamond prices bloom at Phillips

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Theft embarrasses slack Louvre

By John Lichfield in Paris

THE LOUVRE lost a painting on Sunday and 20,000 people lost their tempers.

It was not the biggest or the most valuable painting in the Louvre - a diminutive landscape by Corot - but it was gone and an embarrassed museum wanted it back. All entrances to the sprawling building were blocked by police for nearly three hours.

Frightening rumours circulated among the large crowd trapped inside: there had been a murder, a bomb, a fire. People fainted, screamed, shouted. But the police insisted on searching the art-lovers' bags - and some of the art-lovers' bodies - one by one.

The tiny 13in-by-19in canvas by the French, pre-Impressionist painter Camille Corot was sliced out of its frame in an obscure, little-visited and unguarded room in the Sully pavilion. Its absence was noticed by an attendant at 1.30pm on Sunday. It was still missing yesterday.

Five Corots were stolen from French museums - allegedly for Japanese collectors - in the 1960s; all were later recovered.



This is the fourth incident of the kind at the Louvre in the last four years. A religious robe from the 4th-century BC disappeared from the collection of ancient Greek artefacts this January; two relatively obscure paintings vanished in 1995 and 1994. There have also

been several acts of vandalism.

The attacks have mostly occurred on a Sunday when the museum is most crowded. On each occasion, the Louvre has promised to review its security. Pierre Rosenberg, president-director of the museum, admitted yesterday that

the stolen Corot had no individual alarm: it was hung in a room with no permanent attendant and no video surveillance. The thief prised open a glass security case and cut around the painting with a razor, without being noticed. Mr Rosenberg tried to be philo-

Missing: A detail from *Le Chemin de Sévres* by the pre-Impressionist painter Camille Corot which has been stolen from the Louvre. It is the latest in a series of similar thefts from the museum

Photograph: AP

sophical yesterday. "In my opinion, thefts of this kind are relatively rare. They are part of our sad fate [as one of the most visited art galleries in the world]."

The museum was not so relaxed when the theft was discovered. Visitors complained that they had been squashed for two hours as bags were laboriously checked. No audible explanation was given. Louvre staff explained that they had been asking for a proper system of loudspeakers for years: the authorities had always refused, fearing it would make the place appear "like a supermarket".

The missing canvas - *Le Chemin de Sévres* - was painted in 1858-9. Corot paintings fluctuate wildly in price - from £400 to £600,000 - according to their size and subject. A Corot of a similar size and topic was sold recently in New York for just over £70,000.

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Republican dissidents step up attacks before Irish poll, as the Women's Coalition fights to make the voice of reason heard

Mortar assault raises stakes in peace vote

By David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent

A MORTAR attack launched by an increasingly active break-away group from the IRA yesterday failed to damage a Belfast RUC station, or to disrupt the annual marathon race in the city. None the less, the incident, and an explosion on the Belfast-Dublin railway line, served as reminders that republican dissidents are intent on increasing the temperature in the run-up to this month's referendum on the Good Friday agreement.

The group involved is assumed to be an unnamed splinter which broke away from the IRA in recent months in protest at the peace process. It suffered its first casualty on Friday, when one of its members was shot dead by gardai during an attempted hold-up in Co Wicklow, not far from Dublin.

Five men were remanded in custody when they appeared at a special sitting of the Special

Criminal Court in Dublin on charges connected with the attempted raid. They were charged with possessing weapons, including a Kalashnikov. The attack on the railway line was near the border at Luochtime yesterday, when there was a small explosion near the village of Cloghogue. Services were suspended while security forces examined the area.

Although three republican factions oppose the accord and the peace process generally, only one has the capacity to launch mortar attacks on the security forces. Part of the Belfast marathon had to be re-routed following the discovery of two mortar bombs near the route. Race organisers described the disruption as minor. It is believed the devices were fired at Grosvenor Road RUC station in west Belfast during the night.

The tussle within mainstream Unionism over the agreement is due to intensify today, when some of David Trim-

ble's Ulster Unionist MPs are to join the Rev Ian Paisley for the formal launch of the No campaign.

A majority of the UUP's 10 MPs are against the accord, while the influential Orange Order has also reiterated its opposition. Representatives of the order are due to meet Tony Blair in London later this week, following a visit by the Prime Minister to Belfast tomorrow. The Orange Order said it had no option but to "advise the lodges that the many areas of difficulty in the agreement have not been satisfactorily resolved. Therefore the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland cannot recommend the agreement to the county grand lodges and members."

The Unionist MP Ken Maginnis said the decision did not reflect grassroots opinion, adding: "There have not been any objective debates within the order. It has been hijacked by a significant but comparatively small element and that's sad."



Smiling through: Women's Coalition leader Pearl Sagar - "Hecklers look confused when I laugh at them," she says

Photograph: Brian Harris

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Woman whose movement makes mockery of the diehards

By Kim Sengupta
in Belfast

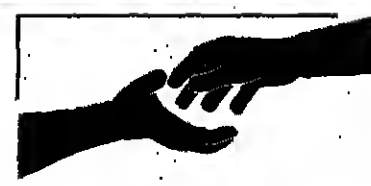
PEARL SAGAR'S background is Protestant working class, she is essentially a Unionist, she is married to a British soldier who served in Northern Ireland, and until recently she was, she says, politically apathetic. "The first time I ever voted was for myself, and that was just two years ago."

Ms Sagar's work with the Women's Coalition movement has incurred the antipathy of some loyalist activists who forced her to move from her previous home. She is, they say, a traitor who has betrayed her community.

It is not just street-level extremists who find the 39-year-old grandmother such a threat to the established order. The Rev Ian Paisley and his Democratic Unionist Party are said to seethe with rage at Ms Sagar and her co-founder of the coalition, Monica McWilliams, who is a Catholic. Many of the insults flung at them were overtly sexist. "Stupid, whingeing women," they were called at the Northern Ireland Forum. Iris Robinson, wife of DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson, declared: "Thank God only 7,000 idiots voted for these women."

Ms Sagar has become adept at turning the sexist insults back on her attackers. When a

IRISH REFERENDUM



MAY 22

DUP member, finding it difficult to fathom the consensual nature of the coalition, demanded to know whether it was nationalist or loyalist, she responded: "Surely since we are women it must depend on the time of the month."

When during discussions of decommissioning of weapons Mr Paisley started a "trade about the birth rates of Catholics and how the Protestants must procreate to protect Ulster's British legacy, she turned to a colleague and said, sotto voce: "Does he want an adjournment so we can all go and start at once?"

And then there was Willie McCrea, also of the DUP, who declared: "As long as I live, I will have a mission, which is to teach these two women to stand behind the loyal men of Ulster." At this point Ms Sagar and Ms McWilliams burst into a rendi-

tion of "Stand By Your Man".

The Women's Coalition was founded by Ms Sagar, a social worker, and Ms McWilliams, a social scientist, in 1996. Within weeks they had picked up 7,731 votes for the Forum. Under a top-up system, designed to ensure the involvement of fringe loyalist groups, the coalition won two seats at the Forum and Stormont, taken up by the movement's two leaders.

The bigger parties were outcomoured with the system. The Unionists, for example, ended up with only one more delegate than the coalition for the all-party talks.

Ms McWilliams, a Queen's University graduate and a Michigan post-graduate, has had by far the higher profile of the two leaders of the movement. Ms Sagar has kept a lower profile. However, she refuses to be overawed by those who

consider themselves to be her political elders. "It is only when I got [to the talks] that I began to realise just how childish politics had become in Northern Ireland," she says. "People here have simply been playing politics for the last 28 years."

"All the talking has been about the sectarian divisions, with powerful interests doing their best to maintain that divide. What they haven't addressed are the real issues like the conditions the working-class people live in, their jobs, their education."

Ms Sagar and her colleague have tried to steel themselves to cope with the barracking and heckling to which they are subjected. She explained: "I've probably been helped by the fact that I am not particularly politically correct, and I sometimes laugh at jokes I shouldn't do. Our hecklers look confused when I laugh at them. I've also taught myself just to carry on with the speeches, you can see that deflate them as well."

She believes the future is full of promise. "What the peace process has done is change the political map of Northern Ireland," she says. "People will hopefully in the future not vote according to whether they are Catholic or Protestant, but according to their own hopes and needs. I'm very glad I am here to see this happen."

Stomach bug linked to heart disease

INFECTION by a bug normally associated with stomach ulcers may contribute to heart disease, scientists said yesterday.

Italian researchers found evidence of the organism, *Helicobacter pylori*, in 62 per cent of people with heart disease and only 40 per cent of those without the disease. Dr Vincenzo Pascari, of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, who led the study, said: "The prevalence of infection by

Helicobacter pylori was similar in patients with heart attack, unstable chest pain, or chronic chest pain. The findings strongly suggest that the association between *Helicobacter pylori* and heart disease is related to the strength of this bacteria."

The researchers looked at 88 patients who had ischaemic heart disease, a condition caused by poor blood flow to the heart and which causes heart attacks. They were matched by an-

other group of 88 who did not have heart disease. Their findings are reported in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*.

The key factor was whether the bacteria was a virulent strain with a gene called CagA. Heart disease affected 43 per cent of people with bacteria containing this gene, compared with 17 per cent of those whose bacteria lacked the gene.

Helicobacter pylori takes the form of tiny, spiral-shaped or-

ganisms which live in the stomachs of most people and occasionally cause of gastritis, the underlying condition behind ulcers and some forms of cancer.

Dr Pascari said people with ulcers because of *Helicobacter pylori* infection should not assume they were at increased risk of heart disease. But he added: "Prevention and treatment of these infections may be a new strategy for the prevention of ischaemic heart disease."

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Will trams return to Regent Street?

By Clare Garner

THE CHAOTIC clash of pedestrians and vehicles in London's West End could soon be history if plans to remove all traffic from Regent Street and the surrounding area are approved. The reintroduction of trams, which disappeared from the capital's landscape 40 years ago, is central to the plans.

The Crown Estate, the state body which owns both sides of Regent Street along with large tracts of the most exclusive parts of central London, has unveiled plans to make the area more pedestrian-friendly. Work on the scheme could start in 2000.

The environmentally-friendly vision includes pedestrianising the shopping area of Bond Street, Oxford Street and Regent Street, as well as the entertainment destinations of Soho and Covent Garden, and the ceremonial spaces of



Traffic chaos: Pedestrians and cars vying for space in Regent Street

Trafalgar Square, Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall and Parliament Square.

At present more than 150 buses an hour travel along Regent Street between Oxford

Circus and Piccadilly Circus during rush hours and outside rush hour there are lines of empty buses waiting in the street. One solution is to introduce advanced bus control

measures such as an automatic vehicle location system.

Christopher Howes, chief executive of the Crown Estate, said: "As freeholders of virtually all the property in Regent

Street the Crown Estate has taken the initiative to seek a solution to the traffic problems in the street, in a step which recognises the importance we place on this unique part of the nation's heritage.

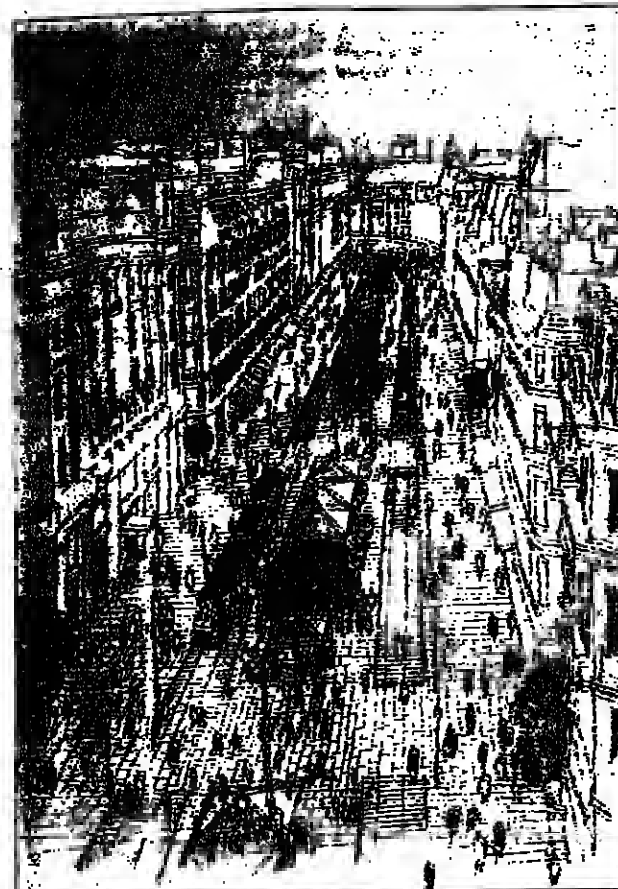
"The Crown Estate has already shown its commitment to Regent Street with investment amounting to at least £100m during the past ten years, and we are determined to reinforce this and push through our vision for a pedestrian-friendly shopping environment - a move which will contribute towards making Regent Street the top shopping destination in Europe.

"In our view, the ideal solution would be to remove all traffic from Regent Street and have a dedicated form of environmentally-friendly transport, a rapid transit system. This is the beginning of what will obviously be a lengthy and complicated process. However, we are aiming to carry out con-

sultations and select the preferred option so that implementation can begin in the year 2000."

Last year the Crown Estate commissioned transport planning and urban design consultants, WS Atkins, to develop traffic management and environmental enhancement solutions for Regent Street. WS Atkins has come back with three options which are being put to statutory consultees as well as stakeholders and interest groups.

The first combines side road closures and improved pedestrian facilities with bus lanes running the length of Regent Street; the second would double the width of pavements and close the road to all vehicles except buses, taxis, emergency vehicles and other essential vehicles; and the third option involves closing Oxford Street to traffic and installing a dedicated rapid transit system.



Car free zone: Artist's impression of how Regent Street might look, with trams
Photographs: Crown Estate

Freed Briton learns of father's death

By Steve Boggan

A BRITON who was kidnapped with his family by Yemeni tribesmen was released to be greeted by the news that his father had died while he was being held hostage.

David Mitchell was told of his father's death by British diplomats after he was freed with his wife, Carolyn, and son, Ben, 14, from a two-week ordeal.

The family were kidnapped by members of the Beni Dabayan tribe who demanded a ransom and improved local facilities from the Yemeni government. In spite of the experience, Mr Mitchell, a teacher with the British Council, said he would return to finish his contract.

"I don't feel any resentment towards the country and no resentment towards the people who have been imprisoning us in the last few days," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

"We are going home to England for a while - I don't know how long - and then I intend to come back and see out my contract here."

David Pearce, deputy head of the British Mission, said Mr Mitchell's brother had written

telling him about the death of their father, who has not been named. He had been seriously ill for some time.

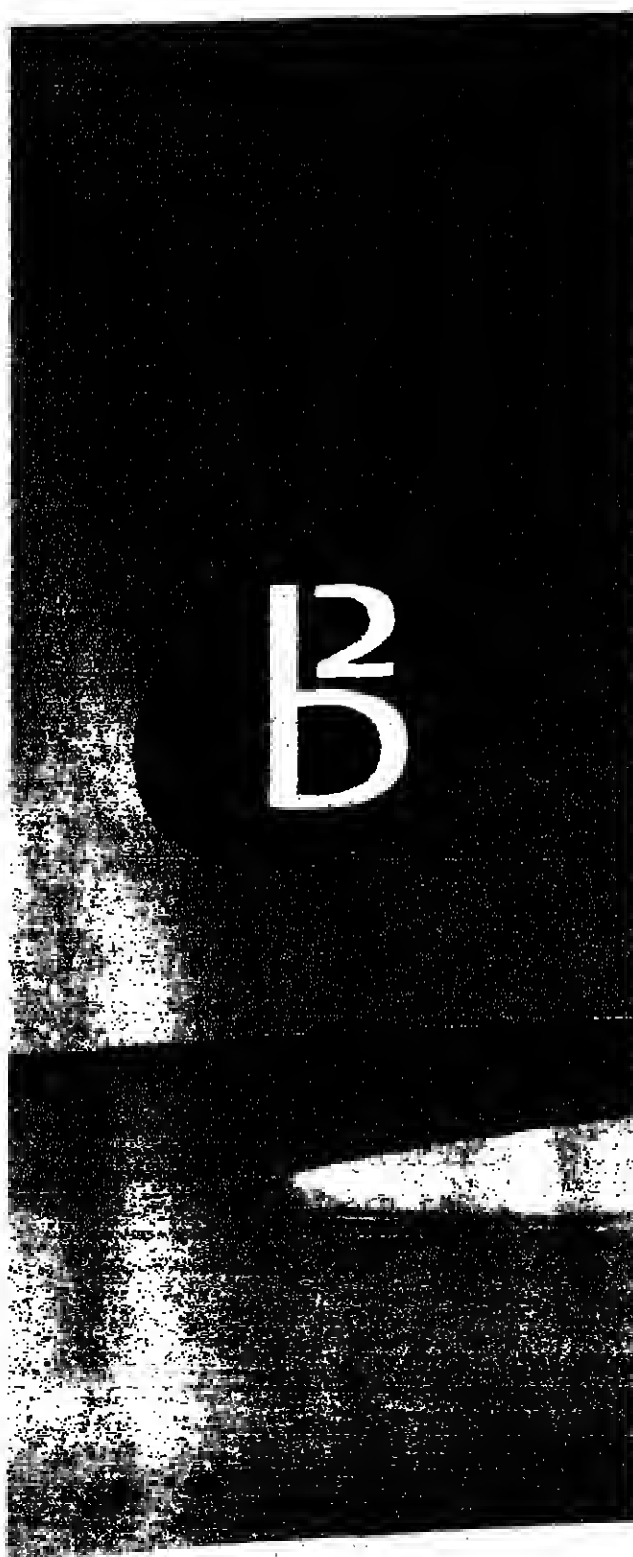
"It was one of the first things we told him," Mr Pearce said, adding that the family had been well treated except for an incident when Ben had been struck with the butt of a rifle. "I think the whole event has been distressing and [the death] is another event that added to that."

The family were kidnapped on 17 April as Mr Mitchell drove his wife and son to the airport near Sanaa, the capital. They live in England and had been visiting for Easter.

"We were driving along a straight section of the road and suddenly a Jeep slowed across the road in front of us," said Mr Mitchell. "Four armed men jumped out and effectively blocked the road, so we had to stop."

"As we saw them in front, my reaction was 'Oh no! I know what's happening and it's happening to us'."

"It has to be said that the treatment was very good. They were extremely generous, very kind, very thoughtful and we never had any fear for personal safety at any time."



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Tories cash in on car drivers' fears

Government accused of concealing plans for green taxes

By Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

THE TORIES are to become the car drivers' champions as party strategists seized an opportunity to cash in on motorists' fears that greener transport will cost them money.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative transport spokesman, will kick off the campaign today with a series of parliamentary questions and an attack on plans for a series of new taxes on motorists.

The move follows the revelation at the weekend that an official from the Prime Minister's policy unit had complained of John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, becoming too anti-car. In a memo under Tony Blair's name, Geoffrey Norris suggested that plans for an integrated transport policy which would help Britain to meet the emissions targets set at the Kyoto summit last autumn were going too far.

In a subsequent television interview, Mr Prescott described Mr Norris as a "teenybopper" and dismissed suggestions that his views were shared by the Prime Minister.

Mr Blair was behind the green agenda and was committed to Britain meeting its Kyoto targets, he said.

Spotting a possible opening through which the opposition might extract valuable political points, Sir Norman announced plans for his campaign. He argued that Mr Prescott's planned White Paper on integrated transport should have been produced before the local elections because it is bound to prove deeply controversial. He is asking the Deputy Prime Minister to spell out his policies on the motorist, on car parking and on new road-travel taxes.

Among the proposals expected to be contained in the new White Paper, scheduled for early June, are plans to allow local authorities to charge motorists to drive into cities. As an incentive, the Treasury has agreed not to claw back the revenues from the schemes but instead to allow councils to keep them.

Sir Norman said there was growing public concern about the Government's plans for new taxes on motorists. "As the No 10 Policy Unit suggested, the taxes will hit middle England hardest. They will hit the

housewife going shopping as well as the factory worker using his firm's car park. The greatest scandal of all this is the way that this transport White Paper has been delayed beyond Thursday's local elections. Mr Prescott knows only too well that his proposals will be deeply controversial," he said.

A spokesman for the Automobile Association said it was not a "motorist at all costs" organisation but believed in responsible car use. However, motorists contributed around £30bn to the Treasury each year with precious little return.

"We do have high hopes for the White Paper, but it is high time that reform of taxation was addressed. Road maintenance has fallen to an appalling level," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Transport, Environment and the Regions said the Government had always planned to publish the White Paper at the beginning of June. It could not do so sooner because it needed to take into account the findings of select committee inquiries into air traffic and railways. Leading article, page 18



Glenda Jackson with actor and admirer Hugh Grant in Notting Hill yesterday

Photograph: PA

Glenda goes back to her roots

GLENDIA JACKSON was saying nothing with flowers yesterday as speculation grew about her ambition to be mayor of London, writes Fran Abrams.

Kremlinologists might have divined, though, that the former actress's assignment with Hugh Grant in Notting Hill, London, had more to it than mere nostalgia.

It had been eight years since the transport minister, who was elected as MP for Hampstead in 1992, was last on a film set. But one thing was for sure, she said. The new mayor would never stray far from the world of leviedom. The issue of bookings for film crews is such a pressing problem that Labour wants a film commissioner in the new mayor's office to tackle it.

Hugh Grant, who is in Notting Hill making a sequel to *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, was so honoured that he presented the minister with not one bunch of flowers but two. "I am a great fan," he confessed. But Ms Jackson confessed little beyond the fact that she used to like to do the crossword between takes. And the mayor's job? Nothing could be further from her mind. She was simply here to make sure Londoners voted "yes" in Thursday's referendum.

Battle over building homes is key to the rural vote

BASINGSTOKE is booming. The Hampshire town regularly comes near the top of the list of places with least unemployment. The shopping malls are bustling. And if there is a local issue in Thursday's council elections - as opposed to a beauty contest for the three national parties contesting seats - it is how to cope with Basingstoke's prosperity and burgeoning demand for building land.

If anywhere, this is where Tory revival has to begin. The other week Tory leader William Hague visited the Oakley ward - currently held by the Liberal Democrats - in order to assert Tory fidelity to the idea of protecting the green acres from rampant housebuilding. (That it's a faith they have found only since last May is another story, as is the fact that the Tories control Hampshire County Council, which compiles the "structure plan" allocating Basingstoke a target for accommodating new housing.)

Locally, the Tories see planning as a good issue. "They" want to build in rural areas, says Tory leader Keith Brant ominously. Liberal Democrat Paula

Local elections: Booming Basingstoke gives a clue to Tory fortunes, writes David Walker, Social Policy Editor

Baker, leader of the council, accepts that there will be development around Basingstoke. But it should be a local decision as to where. "This is a young town, there is a rising demand from families who are looking for homes. We want to provide for our own - the problem is that commuters also want to live here to reach London."

Basingstoke, adds Labour's Jack Evans, has no "brownfield" sites within its boundaries. He blames the previous Tory government for imposing so many houses on Hampshire. "What is going to happen? Somebody somewhere has got to come up with some ideas."

But will planning swing votes as well as generate lively local argument? Some 20 seats on Basingstoke and Deane council are being contested. As of now the Tories are the largest single party with 22 members but the LDs have 17 and

Labour 14 and a power sharing arrangement between them has kept the Tories out of office. No one expects this basic arithmetic to change though Mr Evans, for Labour, hopes that if the LDs do lose a handful of seats to the Tories, Labour will then be able to claim the leadership of the authority.

Paula Baker thinks that the larger Liberal Democrat presence in the House of Commons since last May will be helpful by raising the party's local profile. They need to, asserts Tory Keith Brant. "Locally all they have done is cycle tracks and things - we will show people we can administer". But he is not sanguine about the council changing hands, barring some great surge by Basingstoke's handful of independents shifting the balance of power. Labour's view is that Tony Blair's success in securing agreement in Ulster has further advanced the par-

ty's popularity on the doorstep.

Basingstoke is, unofficially, a Tory target area. What that means, equally unofficially, is that if the party cannot add to its strength this time round, William Hague's leadership is having little effect on party fortunes. According to Michael Tickner, Tory leader in the outer London borough of Bromley, they are on their way. His people are recording swings of 20 per cent in their direction in some wards, though he admits they are solid areas and the real test will come in marginal areas.

London's referendum will, he fears, "muddy the waters": it has been a Labour public relations campaign, and a waste of public money. The Tories are also asking for a yes vote in favour of a London mayor and assembly. He hints that were the two campaigns to be a bit more active, they might secure support.

The message Mr Tickner is trying to ram home is council tax. If electors would only look elsewhere, he says, they would see how "frighteningly expensive" is rule by Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

Blunkett rapped on 'Henry VIII' power

By Fran Abrams

SWEEPING "Henry VIII" powers which will allow David Blunkett to change rules on how schools are governed without consultation have gone too far, a House of Lords Committee has ruled. Mr Blunkett has 250 new powers under a Bill now in the Lords, three of them "Henry VIII" measures which will allow him to change the law without further consultation.

Among other things, the School Standards and Framework Bill introduces the Government's pledge to cut infant class sizes and to allow for parental ballots on the future of grammar schools. It abolishes



Blunkett: No consultation

grant-maintained schools as well as making changes to governing bodies, school budgets and school admission policies.

In particular, the committee

questions why the Government's class-size limit of 30 does not appear in the Bill itself but in regulations, allowing for it to be changed.

Likewise, controversial rules on how parents will be able to force a ballot on the future of a local grammar school, and who will be able to vote in it, have not been spelt out.

"These clauses of the Bill have already attracted considerable controversy. These powers cover important matters of substance which cannot be dismissed as mere details," the report from the House of Lords Select Committee on Delegated Powers says.

The trend for ministers to

take on additional powers not fully detailed in Bills is a growing one, the committee adds. "It is, however, a trend which the committee views with considerable concern."

Baroness Blatch, Conservative education spokeswoman in the House of Lords, welcomed the report and said that the Conservatives had always adhered to the committee's recommendations when they were in power. The Labour government should now set out precisely what powers it was taking and how it proposed to use them as well as seeking the permission of Parliament before putting them into effect, she said.

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The door to peace is opened in vain

By Robert Fisk
Middle East Correspondent

A POLICE helicopter purred lazily over us when Benjamin Netanyahu came out of No 10 to tell us how grateful he was to Tony Blair. It drifted back, high in the spring sunshine, when Yasser Arafat emerged from Downing Street an hour later to thank the British Prime Minister for his commitment to the "peace process". How they loved Tony. How they bated each other. And all the while, behind us, looms that fateful building in which Lord Balfour had composed in 1917 Britain's declaration of support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

So there was "Bibi", immaculate as ever in dark suit and thick white hair, telling us that there could be progress if both sides showed "flexibility". Israel, he claimed, "had already gone the extra mile". The Palestinians took the view that Mr Netanyahu's extra mile was the distance that Israel's latest Jewish settlement extended into occupied Arab land. Mr Arafat - emerging from his own separate meeting with Mr Blair, ashen-faced, lower lip quivering, his keffiyeh untidy - warned only that "Netanyahu must take the responsibility of ... the chaos that might take place in the region if the result of these talks is not positive."

A mile away, through streets left empty by the bank holiday, the Israeli prime minister was already talking to Madeleine Albright, in the sumptuous suites of the Grosvenor House Hotel. The foyer - with its fake log fire and oil painting of ice skaters - looked ominously like the smoking room of the *Titanic*; and within minutes, there was Israel's spokesman, David Bar Ilan, with his ice-cold public school accent, strolling through the lobby to tell journalists - in response to Mr Arafat's statement - that "if the formula is land-for-terrorism, we can't go on with this".

It was the language of children that both sides spoke yesterday, the language of threat and false compromise. How Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat loved peace, strove for peace. But they could not even bring them-

selves to talk to each other. Mr Arafat was so politically weakened that all he could do, pathetically, was to accept Washington's demand for a further 13.1 per cent Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank - in itself a hopeless diminution of the Oslo agreement. In the Grosvenor House, Ms Albright - the supposedly tough-talking US Secretary of State who has used all the anger of a sheep to persuade the Israelis to stop building settlements on occupied Arab land and adhere to the Oslo timetable - tried to persuade Mr Netanyahu to cede more than 9 per cent of the land in the next handover of territory to Mr Arafat. In vain.

So much for the Palestinian state. So much for its putative capital of Jerusalem. So much for peace. Outside No 10, the networks were telling their viewers - in the words of the man from the BBC - that Netanyahu had "little room for compromise" because of his divided cabinet. There was no hint in his broadcast that Israel is not abiding by the terms of the signed Oslo deal.

Mr Bar Ilan spelt out the situation all too clearly. Israel wanted more security from Mr Arafat and demanded that he reduce the number of his Palestinian policemen. Better security, fewer police. Who, one wondered, dreamed up these crazed formulas?

The Blair theory, that "it's important just to talk", also failed yesterday. For all Messrs Netanyahu and Arafat wanted to do was blame the other for the darkness approaching the Middle East and make sure that the world took their side when the storm broke.

As for Ms Albright, she uncharacteristically avoided the press for much of the day; when she arrived in London on Sunday night, she had nothing to say. And precious little to do. Five years ago, on a bright autumn afternoon on the White House lawn, President Bill Clinton promised America's "active support" in "the difficult work that lies ahead". Yesterday, fearful as ever of the Israeli lobby in the United States, and unwilling to criticise Israel, Washington seemed ready to walk away from the "peace process" it once guaranteed.



Tony Blair waits to greet Yasser Arafat at No 10 yesterday, where the Prime Minister held separate talks with the Palestinian leader and Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israeli Prime Minister is refusing to agree to the US demand to pull out of a further 13 per cent of Arab land. Photograph: Tom Filston

Albright: sidelined and undermined

By Mary Dejevsky
in Washington

THE senior US representative at yesterday's Middle East talks, the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, has become a familiar figure on the world scene since she became America's first female executive of foreign policy 16 months ago. International jet-setter that she has become, she arrived in London hotfoot from a gruelling Asian tour that took in Japan, China and Mongolia.

But even as she was deep in sensitive discussion in Peking on preparations for President Bill Clinton's China summit next month, an article appeared in Washington that seemed to cut some of the ground from beneath her feet. Ms Albright, said two veteran, well-connected political observers, was no longer making important foreign policy decisions, if ever she had been. She was being routinely bypassed by the President and his increasingly trusted National Security Adviser, Samuel (Sandy) Berger, and there was a risk, according to one quoted State Department official, that she was becoming "a decoration".

It is not unusual for analysts to pick on one, perhaps minor, policy discrepancy and elevate it to an expression of a bigger rift. In this case, Rowland Evans and Robert Novak said that Mr Clinton had "quietly pigeonholed" a warning from the former president George Bush to the Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, threatening US military intervention if Serbia destabilised Kosovo. Not repeating the threat, said Evans and Novak, when Serbian troops started killing Albanians in Kosovo last month, "greatly reduces ... Ms Albright's diplomatic freedom of action".

Evans and Novak have their own policy axe to grind: they predict mayhem in Kosovo that could "dwarf Bosnia's bloody fighting" unless a

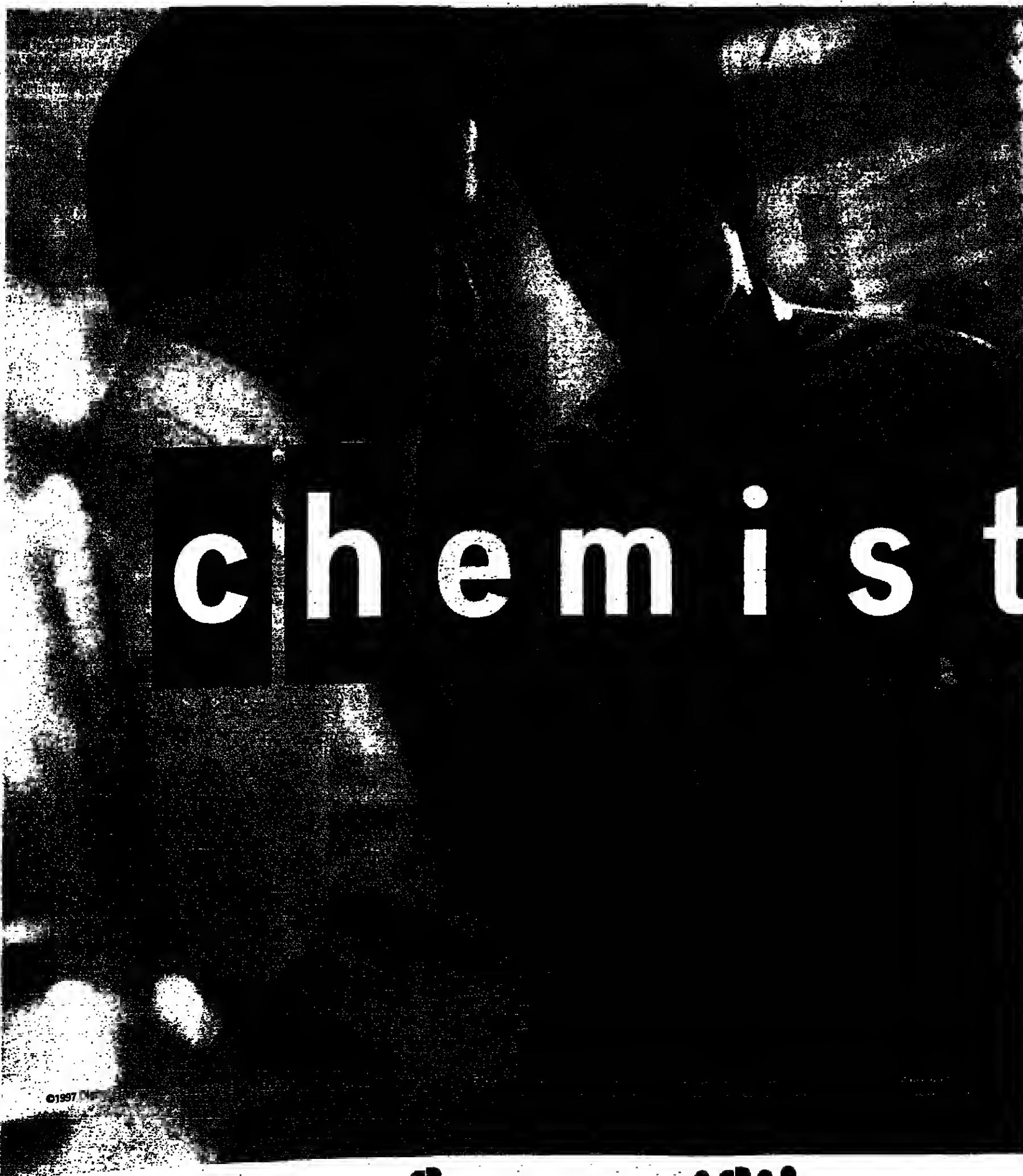
credible US threat is in place. It is also true that Mr Berger was subsequently asked whether what has become known as the "Christmas warning" to Mr Milosevic had been abandoned, and denied it. Or rather, he said that "no option is ruled out" - which may not be quite the same thing. On the other hand, there are gathering signs that Ms Albright's impact on Washington policy-making may be developing in inverse proportion to the frequency of her travels.

Mr Berger is a consummate Washington operator with five years at the White House, and Evans and Novak claim that he and President Clinton between them are making foreign policy according to the priorities of US domestic policy. They suggest this as a reason why Ms Albright's star seems to have faded.

A more valid criticism might be that Ms Albright, in reportedly trying to persuade Mr Clinton to be tougher on Israel over the Middle East peace agreement and failing to extract from him a threat of US intervention in Kosovo, may herself have lost sight of domestic priorities, especially in an election year.

Nor has she managed to notch up any diplomatic achievement abroad that might lend her political clout at home. Iraq, Iran, Russia, Cuba - increasingly, the initiative is being taken elsewhere than Washington. Her whistle-stop tour of Europe and the Gulf this winter failed to drum up allied support for new US strikes on Iraq even from some of Washington's staunchest Arab allies. Meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials have yielded no progress.

Ms Albright's defenders would argue that the failures are not hers but reflect the intractability of remaining world conflicts. It was probably wise of State Department spokesmen, none the less, to stress in advance of yesterday's talks that hopes of breaking the Middle East deadlock looked dim.



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Leaders close ranks over euro wrangle

By Katherine Butler
in Brussels

WIDESPREAD cynicism about the fudged deal to select the first president of the European Central Bank was brushed aside by political leaders yesterday as they closed ranks, in public at any rate, to play down the significance of the Franco-German wrangle.

The continental press gave the deal an overwhelming thumbs down and members of the European Parliament warned it could be illegal under the terms of the Maastricht treaty. Wim Duisenberg, the majority-backed candidate, was forced to declare he would stand aside after four years of the eight-year term of office to allow his French rival Jean Claude Trichet to take over in 2002. Mr Trichet will serve a full eight years, the European Commission confirmed yesterday.

The deal was done after France wielded its veto during an eleven-hour stand-off which marred the weekend launch of the single currency and sparked fears that the Euro would be weakened.

But relative calm in the financial markets where the German mark and other European currencies stabilised against the dollar appeared to vindicate the claim that, although a public relations fiasco, the compromise caused less alarm than anticipated about the euro's credibility.

The German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, defended the outcome in

Bonn yesterday, pointing out that Mr Duisenberg was appointed for eight years and the decision to go after four was his own. "It was his decision to leave early. I must respect it. It was a compromise."

There was no serious threat to the Franco-German alliance either, he

Redwood's warning

BRITAIN could be forced to enter the single currency with the pound at its current high rate, the Conservatives' trade and industry spokesman John Redwood claimed last night, writes Fran Abrams.

The agreement signed at the weekend dictates that the 11 countries joining the euro will do so at their mid-rates for the exchange rate mechanism. If Britain does the same, it will go into the currency at DM2.95 to the pound.

The Treasury dismissed the claims as "just plain wrong". It said Britain would negotiate the level at which it should go in when the time came.

insisted. "With friends you can talk about everything, even if you disagree. This will change nothing in the German-French friendship."

The German Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, who during the summit took a tougher line against

the French than Mr Kohl, yesterday dismissed as "absolute rubbish" rumours that the Bundesbank president, Hans Tietmeyer, had threatened to resign over the deal.

The Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok, also defended the deal against Opposition accusations he himself had lost credibility with his electorate, who go to the polls tomorrow, while the Belgian Prime Minister, Jean Luc Dehaene, said the spat would be forgotten within weeks. Mr Dehaene had earlier voiced fury at the way in which Tony Blair handled the talks but said such clashes were inevitable from time to time.

Furious European Parliamentarians, however, threatened to expose any illegality in the deal during hearings on all six appointments to the ECB executive board this week. Mr Duisenberg faces cross-examination by the parliament's monetary affairs committee for three hours on Thursday morning.

Pauline Green, the leader of the 200-strong Socialist group in the assembly, who said it was unacceptable that "poor old Duisenberg" had been forced to pretend he would resign for personal reasons, said there was growing concern about the implications of the deal. It means Mr Trichet will head the bank for a full eight-year term. Ms Green, who has asked the parliament's legal service to vet the agreement ahead of the hearings, said the deal meant the top bank job is now "stitched up" for twelve years rather than eight.



Hot trade French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin in New Caledonia yesterday to sign an accord on the future of the island Photograph: Reuters



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Unabomber - four life terms Hardline Croat dies

THE convicted Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski was sentenced to four terms of life in prison without parole yesterday for a 17-year campaign of bombings that killed three people and maimed more than 20 others. In a statement in court, the 55-year-old former maths professor said the government's case against him was "clearly political" and he admitted no guilt or remorse. — Reuters



CROATIAN Defence Minister Gojko Susak (pictured), the leading light of the hardline nationalists in Croatia's ruling party, died on Sunday from lung cancer, the government said yesterday. Susak, 53, was seen as an undisputed authority over the hardline Bosnian Croat lobby within the Croatian government. He will be buried on Thursday, which has been declared a national day of mourning. Reuters, Zagreb

Fatal cost of banana business

CONSUMERS were warned yesterday that the blood of South American workers is being spilled to put bananas on sale in European supermarkets, writes Katherine Butler. A video filmed undercover and shown at an international conference in Brussels yesterday showed workers on huge plantations in Costa Rica being poisoned by toxic insecticide sprays, appalling housing conditions and systematic sexual exploitation of women workers. Glenys Kinnock, the Labour MEP, condemned the globalisation of food trade and the effect it would have on small-scale producers in African and Caribbean countries. "Bananas are a kind of microcosm of the challenges we face with globalisation which has both its winners and losers" she said.

Fruit trade that went sour, page 16

'Dizzy' drug found in pig offal

SALES of pig lungs, liver and kidneys are to be suspended in Hong Kong after the drug Clenbuterol, which causes dizziness, was found in lungs on sale in the territory. Traders have voluntarily decided to not sell the items until it is clear consumption is safe again, a Department of Health spokeswoman said. — Reuters

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Triad boss takes starring role in court drama



'Broken Tooth' Koi is led away after being charged with attempting to kill Macau's top crime fighter

Reuters

By Stephen Vines
in Hong Kong

IT IS like a gangster movie saga only it happens to be real and the movie about the saga is being paid for by the king of Macau's gangsters, "Broken Tooth" Koi.

Yesterday "Broken Tooth", whose real name is Wan Kuok-koi, was charged with a host of serious offences connected with organised crime. While he was being charged, preparations were under way for the premiere of a film about Mr Wan's life, paid for by the principal subject.

"Broken Tooth" (who has now had his teeth capped) is reputed to be head of Macau's 14K Triad gang with an estimated membership of some 10,000, making it an enormous organisation in a territory with around half a million inhabitants.

The weekend arrest of Mr Wan, two bodyguards colour-

fully known as Chiu Yan (Superman) and Ah Gwei (Ghost) and others, followed a failed attempt on the life of Macau's police chief Antonio Marques Baptista, who was saved by the quick thinking of his dog who sniffed explosives in a car Mr Baptista was about to enter.

The chief then went after his man in person. Within hours he burst into a private room of a restaurant at the gaudy Hotel Lisboa where Mr Wan and other alleged gang members were watching a Hong Kong television programme about "Broken Tooth's" exploits.

Mr Baptista cuffed Mr Wan and triumphantly led him out of the hotel where a bevy of reporters were waiting to record the arrest. Neither the captive nor the captor are publicity shy. Mr Baptista is battling to end an eruption of gangland violence over control of high roller gambling on the fringes of the legitimate casino activity which keeps Macau's econ-

omy afloat. He sees himself as a cross between "Rambo" and "Dirty Harry".

Mr Wan describes himself as an "entertainment businessman" but makes little attempt to hide the strong-arm side of his activities. Last month he told an American magazine, "anyone who's done something had to me will never escape. I won't kill him. I'll make him take a voyage to another world".

The film about his life, sponsored by Mr Wan, is called *Casino*, and it makes no bones about "Broken Tooth's" gangsterism. Indeed it shows how he muscled his way up the ranks to become the boss of the 14K Triad. A ruthless gang war, waged for the better part of a year, also appears to have made Mr Wan the criminal king-pin of Macau. The war has involved the killing of officials and assassinations in the middle of town in broad daylight.

"I'm not afraid of anyone," Mr Wan is quoted as saying,

"there is no one left in Macau worth being afraid of." The gangland boss certainly does not seem to be afraid of the law. He has slipped in and out of custody and had highly paid lawyers tie up the courts while he remained out on the streets.

The authorities are seriously embarrassed by the outbreak of gang violence in the normally rather sleepy enclave.

The Macau government has arrested a total of 20 people "who are leading figures in one of the criminal organisation's active in the territory" alongside Mr Wan. Yesterday new laws were enacted to help the government crackdown on organised crime.

Even Stanley Ho, the powerful boss of the company which runs Macau's casinos, has proved unable to have any impact on the gang warfare. It remains to be seen whether the law will finally manage to put the big league crime bosses out of business.

'Pentiti' fail to nail Andreotti

By Anne Hanley
in Rome

ITALY's seven-time Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti warned top Sicilian mafiosi that he would be forced into launching a tough anti-crime crack-down if they did not call a halt to their internecine wars in 1993, the former Cosa Nostra boss Giovanni Brusca told a court in Perugia yesterday.

The accusation - implying that a man who was in every Italian government from 1946 to 1992 was in effect pulling Mafia strings - is a serious one, even when levelled against someone whose copybook is already indelibly blotted.

Mr Andreotti is on trial in Perugia for allegedly ordering the murder in 1979 of the muck-raking journalist Mino Pecorelli. He is also in the dock in Sicily for his supposed Mafia links in a case constructed around dramatic evidence against him from *pentiti*, as mafiosi who turn state's evidence are known. But though they started out with what seemed like a water-tight case, prosecutors have seen wide cracks appearing in that construction as evidence from *pentiti* dried up or was proved false.

Now Brusca is wading in, including Mr Andreotti in the constant stream of damning accusations that he has come up

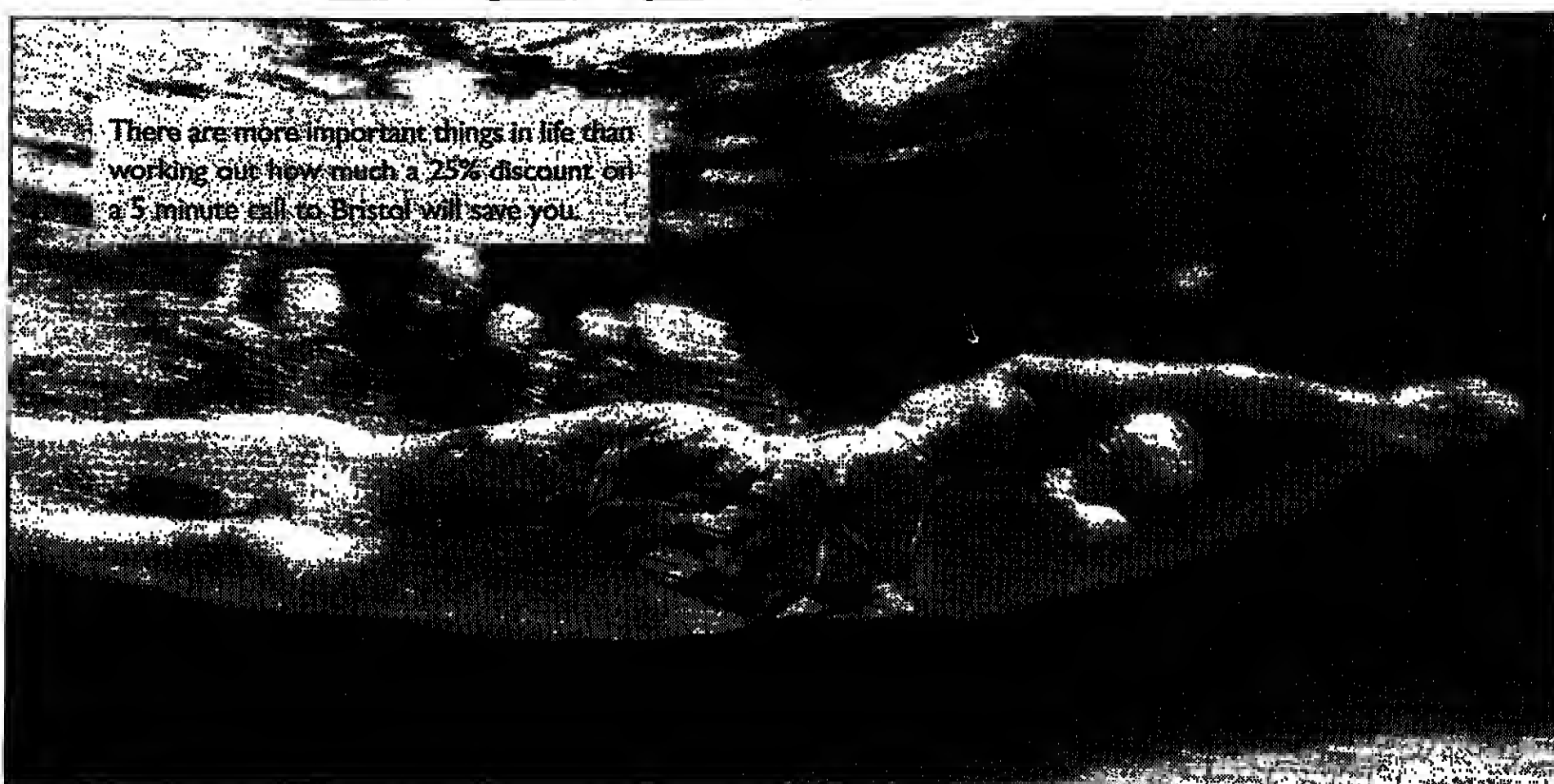
with since his arrest in 1996. But prosecutors are unlikely to rejoice over his version of events.

The extreme haste with which Brusca, reputed to be a brutal Mafia killer, insisted on turning his back on the mob immediately after his arrest has marred his evidence, endowing it with an air of insincerity. Moreover, his clever knack of producing testimony which never nails anyone in the world of organised crime has not endeared him to investigators.

It has, however, made him popular with the growing chorus of mainly right-wing MPs who believe that *pentiti* should be taken with a large pinch of salt. Yesterday Brusca told the court that he had turned state's evidence "for my son. I don't want him to go the same way I did."

But this paternal concern did not extend to the family of *pentito* Santo Di Matteo: Brusca is accused of having strangled Di Matteo's 11-year-old son and then having had the body dissolved in acid to punish Santo for rattling on the mob.

Di Matteo is one of the few *pentiti* whose testimony is rarely questioned. Yet in a courtroom in Caltanissetta, Sicily, yesterday he said would give no more evidence: the state protection being offered him against his former Mafia colleagues was inadequate, he said.



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Legal victory for sacked dockers

Robert Milliken
in Sydney

AS Australia's waterfront war enters its fifth week, the 1,400 sacked dock workers at the centre of the dispute yesterday claimed a victory when the High Court ruled that they were entitled to win back their jobs.

After a month of one of the most bitter industrial confrontations Australia has seen, the High Court ruled yesterday that the dock workers sacked by Patrick, the country's second biggest cargo handling company, could return to work. The ruling was hedged with conditions, meaning the dispute is likely to drag on and leave more than 11,000 containers stranded at docks around Australia.

Nevertheless, cheers erupted when the court's decision was announced to thousands of dock workers (known as "wharfies" in Australia), their families and supporters who have formed picket lines outside the locked gates of Patrick's wharves in Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle, in Western Australia. Some hardened wharfies wept, while others declared the verdict a victory for Australia's working class.

"I'm looking forward to getting back to work with my mates," said one wharfie in Sydney. Addressing the workers in Sydney, Jennie George, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the

union umbrella body, warned: "We've still got some way to go. It's not all over. We've had a great moral victory again today."

Patrick sacked the workers on 7 April, after it announced that the subsidiary companies which employed them no longer had any assets and had been placed in the hands of administrators. The move stunned the workers, all of whom belong to the Maritime Union of Australia, which has had a monopoly on Australia's waterfront for almost 100 years.

Overnight, the company replaced the sacked wharfies with non-union men trained in secret and hired on contracts. The federal conservative coalition government, headed by John Howard, has strongly supported Patrick's showdown with the union. It has treated the war on the wharves as the decisive battleground to break Australia's biggest, and last, union monopoly.

But what started as a fight over waterfront reform has turned into a protracted battle in the courts over the rights of dismissed workers. A fortnight ago, the union took Patrick to the Federal Court. It delivered a landmark ruling that Patrick should reinstate the workers and not hire others in their place. It also found that Patrick may have broken the law, which forbids dismissing people simply because they belong to a union. Patrick appealed to the High

Court, the final appeal court, last week. In its judgment yesterday, the High Court upheld the ruling against the dockers' sackings, but said their reinstatement would depend on whether the administrators of the hire companies are able to restore those companies to trading.

Peter Brook, one of the independent administrators, said the verdict did not guarantee the workers would be re-employed. "We're not compelled to hire anybody," he said. Chris Corrigan, the chairman of Patrick, yesterday offered the administrators A\$3.6m (£1.4m) to get the companies going, but hinted there were conditions attached. "Any decision by the administrators must involve massive work-place reform, otherwise the companies will go into liquidation," he said.

Mr Howard's government has been damaged by the way the dispute has unfolded. While most Australians support waterfront reform, opinion polls show they are unimpressed by the government's handling of the dispute. Mr Howard and Peter Reith, his Minister for Workplace Relations, boasted of a swift victory over the union when Patrick moved against it. Now, the government looks badly outmanoeuvred. It still faces a court case in which the union will seek to show that Patrick and the government illegally conspired to dismiss the union workers.



Satisfaction: Sacked wharfie Ron Smith celebrates the court ruling yesterday in Sydney. Photograph: David Gray/Reuters

Racist campaign cuts no ice with NZ voters

By David Barber
in Wellington

NEW Zealand's centre-right coalition government hung on to its single-seat majority in Parliament with a by-election victory on Saturday, but was dealt a sharp rebuke by voters.

The Prime Minister Jenny Shipley's National Party had its majority in the Taranaki-King Country seat slashed from more than 10,000 in the 1996 general election to 966.

But there was worse for her junior coalition partner, New Zealand First, led by the one-time glamour boy of New Zealand politics Winston Peters, which was humiliated. Its candidate, who took 17 per cent of the vote to finish second in 1996, attracted only 2.75 per cent this time to come sixth, four votes behind the minor Christian Heritage Party and only slightly ahead of the Greens and the Legalise Cannabis Party.

It was a devastating result for Mr Peters, the Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer, who conducted a vigorous campaign in the rural North Island seat, and raises doubts about his and the party's long-term future.

The outcome shows the magic has gone from the NZ First party he founded with a nationalistic crusade of cuts in immigration and foreign investment, winning him the balance of power after the 1996 election.

The party's failure to capture three per cent of the vote confirmed recent nationwide opinion polls showing NZ First would disappear as a political force if a general election were held now.

The extreme right-wing ACT NZ (formerly the Association of Consumers and Taxpayers) laid claim to replace it as the National Party's coalition partner after next year's election, finishing second on Saturday with 25 per cent of the vote. ACT has eight MPs against NZ First's 17.

Mrs Shipley, who caused Saturday's ballot by sending Jim Bolger - the man she ousted as Prime Minister last year - to Washington as ambassador, described ACT's claim as premature. "I have heard people write off Winston Peters in the past and be proven wrong," she said.

When he won the balance of power, he joined them in coalition, an act of betrayal huge numbers of his former supporters have not forgiven.

Arrests as lost tanker reappears in China

By Richard Lloyd Parry
in Kuala Lumpur

AN oil tanker which was believed to have been hijacked by pirates in the South China Sea has reappeared in southern China, amid reports that it was an inside job.

The Singapore agents for the Malaysia-owned *Petro Ranger* said yesterday that Indonesian pirates boarded the ship and siphoned off most of its cargo of 11,000 tonnes of diesel oil and kerosene worth \$1.5m. They denied claims by the Chinese foreign ministry that the pirates were members of the ship's own crew.

The vessel turned up on Friday in the port of Haikou, in China's southernmost Hainan Island, two weeks after leaving Singapore en route to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. Apart

from unconfirmed sightings, there had been no contact with the ship since 17 April and its agents, Petroships Ltd, assumed that it had been taken by pirates, a notorious problem in the South China Sea.

The *Petro Ranger* has been seen repainted, given the new name *Wilpy*, and sailed the last part of its journey under a Hooduran flag. None of the crew had been hurt.

Hainan police have detained 12 Indonesians on suspicion of hijacking the oil tanker and sailing it into Chinese waters to smuggle its cargo. The 12 face charges of piracy, smuggling and illegal entry. The captain, Kenneth Blythe, and his crew were being treated as victims of maritime piracy and there was no suggestion they were involved in any way in illegal activities, a Hainan official said.

Trial exposes gang links in NF killing

By John Lichfield
in Paris

WHO killed Yann Piat, the only woman ever to represent the National Front in the French parliament? Some of the political mystery which has swirled around the murder of Ms Piat for the last four years may be cleared away by a trial which began in Draguignan, in the south of France, yesterday.

On the other hand, the circumstances of her assassination are so muddled, and the nature of her political career so complex, that the full truth of the affair may never emerge. Seven small-time gangsters are accused of plotting and carrying out the shooting, on 25 February 1994, to prevent Ms Piat, 42, from becoming the mayor of Héyères on an anti-moh and

anti-corruption platform. By the time of her death, Ms Piat, who had known the NF leader Jean-Marie Le Pen since her childhood, had switched to the centre-right UDF alliance. It was alleged last year, in a highly controversial, and subsequently banned, book, that her murder was ordered by two senior UDF politicians. Although the pair was not named in the book, they were easily identified as François Léotard, head of the UDF, and Jean-Claude Gaudin, mayor of Marseilles.

Both men sued the book has since been widely discounted. The two authors - and the two politicians - are among the long parade of witnesses expected at the trial. Doubts remain, however, that such an inexperienced bunch of small-time crooks would have carried



Marco Di Caro, 25, accused of the murder of MP Yann Piat. Photograph: AFP

out a political assassination of such magnitude. Links between some UDF politicians and organised crime in the département of the Var at the time of the murder are now well-established. The irony is that the assassination, which may have been intended to cover up such dealings, helped to bring the corrupt tangle of political-criminal alliances crashing down.

Far-right routed in by-election shock

By John Lichfield

THE far-right National Front has suffered a considerable setback, losing its only seat in the French parliament in a by-election in Toulon. Although the margin of defeat was only 33 votes, the result was a stinging blow to the Front in one of its principal strongholds. A large part of the moderate, right-wing vote switched to the Socialist candidate, suggesting that many conservative French voters still regard the NF as beyond the pale. The French centre-right has been torn apart since some local leaders formed unauthorised alliances with the NF following the regional elections in March.

The Toulon result will help those leaders of the centre-right who insist that dealings

with the Front are morally wrong and electorally suicidal. The NF candidate, Cédrine Le Chevallier, wife of the far-right mayor of the town, Jean-Marie Le Chevallier, had been widely expected to win the seat after topping the poll in the first round. The by-election was forced by the disqualification of her husband for breaking the campaign finance rules during the May 1997 general election. Although Ms Le Chevallier gained an extra 3,000 votes between rounds, the Socialist candidate Odette Casanova took an extra 5,000 on Sunday - most from the "moderate" right.

The stark fact remains that, with a turn-out of only 50 per cent, the NF attracted less than one in four of the possible votes in a city that it has controlled for three years.

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Ivan Tcherpnin

IVAN TCHERPNI, composer and teacher, was born of musical stock and carried on the family business with aplomb.

He was the son of the Russian composer Alexander Tcherpnin (1899-1977) and the Chinese pianist Lee Hsien-Ming (1915-91) and the grandson of the composer-conductor Nikolai Tcherpnin (1873-1945). Ivan received his earliest musical instruction from his parents, later studying composition with Leon Kirchner at Harvard, which was to become his own base, and with Karlheinz Stockhausen and conducting with Pierre Boulez. His father's cultural open-mindedness fostered a lively intellectual curiosity in Ivan, which was demonstrated both in his compositions and his instrumentalism: he was a fine pianist - but also a virtuoso on the psaltery and the Persian santur.

Tcherpnin composed vigorously all through his all-too-brief career (he was only 55 when he lost his three-year battle with cancer of the liver). His teenage discovery, in 1958, of the possibilities of electronic music - through a tape sent to his father by the Dutch composer Henk Badings - set his imagination loose. His brother Serge, also a composer, remembers a school concert of Badings' music that Ivan organised: it caused an uproar because Ivan staged the concert in total darkness and succeeded in completely disorienting his audience: a considerable achievement for a 16-year-old.

As a result of this early fas-

cination, many of Ivan Tcherpnin's own scores blend live music with electronics. The combination of his solid traditional training with his ceaseless desire to experiment opened up all music to him: his activity in electronics allied him with the extreme avant-garde, and yet he could as readily compose works that would not overstretch the ears of more conservative listeners. One of those more traditional pieces, a Double Concerto for violin, cello and orchestra, which won the \$150,000 Grawmeyer Prize in 1995, has recently been released by the UK company Olympia, on a CD which includes music by his father and grandfather.

He was also happy to write for the amateurs of the symphonic wind band, and one of his largest recent scores was the oratorio *And So It Came to Pass*, performed in Carnegie Hall to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Oratorio Music Society. Indeed, his catholic interests pulled everything within reach: he experimented with automatic music (in what he called "Bachmatic Canons"), explored musical aesthetics, examined the relationship between text and music. The flow of works earned him a garland of awards and prizes.

Tcherpnin was an enthusiastic teacher. He was director of the Harvard Electronic Music Studio from 1972, and gave courses on electronic music in a number of countries in the 1970s and 1980s, including the Dartington Summer School in Devon. The alumni of his

Boston classes include some prominent names of the younger generation of American arts, two of whom worked with their teacher's music: Yo-Yo Ma gave the premiere of the Double Concerto, and Peter Sellars produced Tcherpnin's *Santur Opera* - the first time he had worked with a living composer. But then Tcherpnin was an easy man to work with, and the list of his collaborations is long, among them projects with his teacher Leon Kirchner, John Cage, and Merce Cunningham, for whose dance company he wrote his ballet *The Creative Act* and several other scores.

The sense of bubbling energy inside Tcherpnin's music mirrors his personality: for Richard Dyer, the *Boston Globe* critic and a strong supporter, the first impression of the man was of "a whirlwind of hair, hands and intelligence". But the fizz and the whimsy sat on the surface: the loyalty of his friends and students was earned by the deep seriousness with which he took his responsibilities. That self-effacing devotion extended to his family, too, and shortly before his death, he took enormous pleasure in attending a concert that included a work by one of his sons - the fourth generation of composing Tcherpnins.

Martin Anderson

Ivan Tcherpnin, composer: born Paris 5 February 1943; married 1964 Sandra Prutting (marriage dissolved), 1967 Anne Palmer (three sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved), 1977 Sue-Elle Hershman; died Boston, Massachusetts 11 April 1998.



Tcherpnin: 'a whirlwind of hair, hands and intelligence'

Professor Brian Hackett

BRIAN HACKETT was one of a small group of landscape architects who played a significant part in the development of the subject since the Second World War.

His two books *Man, Society and Environment* (1950) and *Landscape Planning* (1971) helped his students and the young profession recognise the scope of the work to be done in this field, where man's impact on the environment through farming, forestry, water supply, new towns and transport systems was growing so rapidly. He shared with other pioneers a place in the development of broader ideas about regional planning and environmental conservation.

Having qualified as an architect and planner at the Birmingham School of Architecture, in 1945 he returned, after war service with the RAFVR, to teach in the London School of Planning and Regional Development. At that time the school was offering short courses designed to equip members of the land-using professions to guide the process of post-war reconstruction.

However, Hackett was soon attracted away from London to the North, for in the following year Professor J.S. Allen, another pioneer of planning education, invited him to join the staff of the newly formed Department of Town and Country Planning in King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, then part of Durham University, where an undergraduate course in planning had just been established. This department was to be his academic and professional base until his retirement in 1977.

For many years Hackett's main interest had been in landscape, and this had been greatly strengthened through his membership of the Landscape Institute as early as 1945. In 1950 he set up a one-year programme for a postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Design. This was a pioneer venture, only one other such course (in Reading) being then available. Much of the inspiration for it sprang from Hackett's visits to, and

contacts in, Scandinavia, where professional education in landscape architecture was already established. The one-year diploma course was run on a limited scale until 1965 when, to meet the increasing demands of the profession, it was replaced, first by a two-year diploma and then, in 1977, by a Bachelor of Philosophy degree.

At the same time Hackett's personal ideas on the theory and practice of landscape design were growing in influence and importance through his teaching, research and publications. He was recognised as a clear thinker and a powerful advocate of ecological concepts as the essential basis for the design of landscapes, an approach which again was formed from his experiences in Scandinavia.

As a working practitioner Hackett was able to realise these concepts in practice and through his published research. In this respect his work on the restoration of derelict colliery sites and other lands in Northumberland and Durham and his special studies and reports on the restoration of the steep banks of the River Tyne within the urban area were particularly influential.

Hackett played an important role outside his university. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Landscape Architects in 1954, and acted as President from 1967 to 1969 and Honorary Vice-President from 1991. He served on the North of England Regional Advisory Committee on Forestry and the National Water Space Amenity Commission, and was Chairman of the Northumberland and Newcastle Society. In 1967 Newcastle University elected him to a personal Chair in Landscape Design, and he received the Europa Prize for Landscape in 1972.

Brian Hackett will also be remembered for his other gifts - his participation in music-making, as a flautist, his skill in the difficult art of watercolour painting and the pleasure he took (as an expert cook) in entertaining his friends.

Paul Brenikov

Brian Hackett, landscape architect: born 3 November 1911; Lecturer in Town and Country Planning, Durham University 1947-48, Lecturer in Landscape Architecture 1948-49, Senior Lecturer 1949-59; Visiting Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois 1960-61; Reader in Landscape Architecture, Newcastle University 1962-66, Professor of Landscape Architecture 1967-77 (Emeritus); married 1942 Frederica Grundy (died 1979; two sons, one daughter); Elizabeth Ratcliffe; died Newcastle upon Tyne 22 March 1998.



Hackett: ecological advocate

Nizar Qabbani

WRITERS, artists, intellectuals across the Arabic-speaking world are lamenting Nizar Qabbani, the master of love, defecation and lament verse who died on Thursday at the age of 75 in London. In a career spanning five decades Qabbani expressed the aspiration and frustration of millions of Arabs, especially women.

Conservative and authoritarian Arab regimes disliked and often banned his poetry as it embodied assaults on social and sexual taboos; for Qabbani national liberation was meaningless without sexual liberation. He became the most popular Arab poet in the second half of this century. He was even popular in Israel, despite his poems' justifying violence against the Jewish state, with which he fiercely resisted the idea of normalisation.

"His poems about love are extremely poetic; about politics, really sharp," said the former



Qabbani: controversial

prime minister Shimon Peres, who was also touched by Qabbani's love poems for his wife Balqis. "He talked about the unforgettable kiss of yesterday - not just romantic. That's really moving, very moving."

Qabbani's poetry was romantic, political, erotic, bold and, above all, controversial; people hated it or loved it. His 1954 poem "Bread, Hashish

and a Moon" offended the sensibilities of Syrian parliament members, who demanded he be put on trial. The Syrian president Hafez Assad sent a plane to fly the dead poet home for burial in Damascus, where a street was named after him last year.

Nizar Qabbani was born in Damascus in 1923 to a known, but not rich family. His great-uncle was Abu Khalil al-Qabbani, a 19th-century pioneer of Arabic theatre. His niece is the feminist writer Ranna Qabbani. He joined the Syrian diplomatic service as a law graduate in 1945. He served in Cairo, Ankara, London, Madrid, Peking and Beirut, which he made his home after leaving the diplomatic service in 1966.

In 1973 he married, as his second wife, the love of his life, Balqis al-Rawi, when she moved to the Iraqi embassy in Beirut to be near him. Balqis was killed in an explosion in the Iraqi embassy in Beirut in 1981.

He entitled an anthology of that year *To Beirut, the Female*. Arab women were the largest market of his anthologies, as he excelled in expressing the way the Arab female experienced love.

His sister's suicide, when she was forbidden to marry the man she loved, had deeply affected him as a teenager. Again, he always remembered his illiterate mother selling her jewellery to raise the money to publish his first anthology. Its provocative title *The Childhood of a Bosom* caused a scandal in the conservative Damascus of 1948. (The word *bosom* in Arabic relates only to a naked female in an erotic way.) His *Wild Poems*, also published in 1948, was about eroticism and gay love.

His later poetry attacked the tyranny and corruption of Arab regimes; yet he supported the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. He worshipped the populist leader Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, who eradicated

pluralist liberal democracy from Egypt. He was impressed by Nasser's anti-British stance during the ill-fated Suez campaign. He was later taken with Nasser's romantic vague idea of one Arab nation - which never worked since citizens of Arabic-speaking nations often don't understand one another. He named Nasser "the last of the prophets", in a poem lamenting his death in 1970 and defaming Arab leaders who walked behind the prophet's coffin, holding their daggers under their mourning cloaks.

In 1995 he caused another uproar by declaring the death of the Arabs as a nation:

A horrifying chain of degenerations,
Swiftly soaked us into the age of senility.

His 1990 masterpiece "Abu Jahl (the Father of Ignorance) Buys Fleet Street" appealed to many Arab journalists who were helplessly enslaved by petrodollars in the hands of illiterate

conservative paymasters. The closing stanza was a satirical and bitter appeal to an unnamed conservative Arab ruler:

O long-lived one,
We promise never to seek a share of your rule.

O long-lived one,
Go on killing as many of your subjects as you wish,
And fuck as many of your slave girls as you wish.

We only have one wish:
Spare us the words, and spare us the letters.

By the time of his death, Qabbani's 1990 prophecy was complete: not one single Arab media organisation in Europe was left independent to report freely on Arab or international affairs.

Adel Darwish

Nizar Qabbani, poet: born Damascus 21 March 1923; married first Zahra Abq (one daughter, and one son deceased; marriage dissolved), second 1973 Balqis al-Rawi (died 1981; one son, one daughter); died London 30 April 1998.

Bishop Daniel Pézeril

AMID a French Catholic hierarchy that has grown steadily more conservative over the past decades, Daniel Pézeril was a reminder of the reforming days of the Second Vatican Council. He presented the Church's open face in reconciliation with the Jews and with Freemasons, as well as offering support and pastoral care to immigrants. As assistant bishop of Paris

from January 1968 until his retirement in October 1986, he was a highly visible and approachable public figure.

Born in Chile, Pézeril was ordained priest in Paris in 1937. During the Nazi occupation he issued more than a thousand false baptism certificates to Jews, escaped prisoners and to others at risk. His actions to save Jews eventually led to his being

recognised in 1996 as one of the Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

In 1973, as assistant bishop of Paris, Pézeril was one of three leading clergymen to issue a document on the Church's relationship to the Jews which went beyond the position then held by the Church. It spoke of the "eminent and permanent" place accorded the Jewish people

and called for Vatican recognition of the State of Israel. Praised by France's chief rabbi, Jacob Kaplan, the document was heavily criticised by others, especially on the left.

Pézeril's attempts to bring reconciliation with the Freemasons were equally delicate. In 1971 - at the invitation of Pierre Simon, grand master of the Grand Lodge of France - he be-

came the first bishop since 1789 to address a Masonic Lodge. He came in for sharp criticism, but merely responded: "I have only one duty as a bishop."

While he was still a parish priest in the capital, Pézeril was instrumental in establishing the Interdiocesan Service for Immigrant Workers, which offered practical support for immigrants, such as helping

those with no papers to gain documentation. His own birth in Chile perhaps contributed to his lifelong interest in Latin America and he frequently expressed his solidarity with those suffering under the dictatorship of General Pinochet and concern over the fate of the "disappeared" in Argentina, as well as championing of the cause of Archbishop Oscar Romero, as-

sassinated in El Salvador in 1980.

A writer of numerous books himself, Pézeril took a lively interest in France's cultural life and was particularly close to Georges Bernanos as well as other writers like François Mauriac. In 1991 Pézeril published Bernanos's notebooks for his last novel, *Monsieur Ouine*. Immediately after the Sec-

ond World War Pézeril had served as chaplain to the Centre for French Catholic Intellectuals, and had established an informal parish in the heart of Paris's Latin Quarter in 1948.

Felix Corley

Daniel Pézeril, priest: born La Serena, Chile 5 October 1911; ordained priest 1937; Assistant Bishop of Paris 1968-86; died Paris 22 April 1998.

DEATHS

WILLIAMS, Edith, on 1 May 1998 aged 94. Will be so much missed. Loved and adored mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend. Genuinely. Enquiries to EM & J. Will Funeral Directors, Lichfield. Telephone 01543 263138.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HICKS: David. A memorial service will be held at the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, London W1, on Wednesday 1 July at noon.

Announcements for Deaths, Births, Marriages & Deaths, (Births, Deaths, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned on 071-293 2072 (24-hour answering machine 071-293 2011) or faxed to 071-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) and are charged at £20 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Sturge, "Golden Ages (I): Claude, Landscape with Cephalus and Procris Reunited by Diana", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museums: Clare Ford Willie, "The Development of Gothic Art: sculpture", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Sarah Greenberg, "German Expressionism", 1pm. British Museum: Carolyn Perry, "Living in Egypt: pharaonic, Mamluk and modern household objects", 11.30am.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen Mother visits the Royal Pavilion of St Katherine, Buxton Row, London E14. Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounted on Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Whitehall. The Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

Birthdays

Sir Michael Angus, chairman, Whitebread, 68; Mr Vivian Anthony, Secretary, Headquarters and Headquarters Conference, 69; Mr Elizabeth Couran, Curator, Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, 56; Miss Jean Corston MP, 56; Sir Alan Donald, former diplomat, 67; Miss Alice Faye, actress and singer, 83; Sir Charles Fletcher-Cooke QC, former MP, 84; Mrs Joanna Foster, Director, BT Forum, 59; Sir Victor Garland, former Australian High Commissioner, 64; Sir Brian Hayes, former senior civil servant, 69; Mr John Maxton MP, 62; Mr Michael Palin, comedian and actor, 55; Lady Plowden, former chairman, IBA, 88; Mr Barry Reed, former chairman, Austin Reed Group, 67; Mr Roger Rens, actor and playwright, 54; Mr James Stevens, composer, 68; Mr David Stewart MP, 42; Mr Jonathan Weeks, managing director, Woolworth, 60; Mr Brian White MP, 41; Professor Sir Glamour Williams, historian, 78; Mr Gerard Young, former Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorks, 88.

Anniversaries

Births: Sven Aabye Klerkegaard, philosopher, 1813; Heinrich Karl Marx, author and socialist, 1818; Sir Gordon Richards, jockey, 1904. Deaths: Napoleon I (Napoleone Buonaparte), Emperor of France, 1821; Sir Donald Coleman Bailey, wartime bridge designer, 1983. Today is the Feast Day of St Angelo, St Avertinus, St Hilary of Arles, St Hilary of Galeata, St John Hallie, St Jutta and St Marzianus.

LAW REPORT: 5 MAY 1998

Sentence guidelines in duty evasion cases

Regina v Dosanjh; Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Rose, Vice President, Mr Justice Buxton and Mr Justice Richards) 1 May 1998

THE COURT of Appeal gave guidelines as to the appropriate level of sentencing in cases of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of duty chargeable on goods contrary to section 170(1)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979.

N. Petersen (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Oliver Sell QC (Solicitor, Customs and Excise) for the Crown.

Lord Justice Rose, VP said that the maximum sentence for offences contrary to s 170 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 had been increased by section 12 of the Finance Act 1988 from two to seven years' imprisonment,

and accordingly authorities relating to offences committed before 29 July 1988, when section 12 had come into effect, were no longer to be regarded as a reliable guide to the appropriate level of sentence.

The amount of duty evaded was an important factor in determining the appropriate sentence, but other aggravating factors included playing an organisational role in the importation; making importations repeatedly; continuing to make importations despite a warning from the Customs and Excise; and importing more than one type of dutiable goods, for example alcohol and tobacco. Mitigating factors included a prompt plea of guilty, and, in many offences, previous good character and, in some offences, the personal circumstances of the offender.

Illicit importation of alcohol and tobacco was often associ-

ated with other criminal activities involving gangs. There had recently been an increase in violence towards and intimidation of customs officers and ferry staff. Illicit alcohol and tobacco could pass more readily to under-aged consumers, and such goods were often transported in overloaded vehicles, to the hazard of other road users. Legitimate traders were unfairly deprived of business.

The courts needed to distinguish between three broad categories of offenders: those who imported comparatively small quantities on a few occasions; those who, acting on their own or possibly with one other, persistently imported greater quantities; and those in organised gangs who were involved in importation on a large commercial scale. There was a need for a deterrent element in sentencing, particularly when significant amounts

of duty were evaded, by repeated organised expeditions, leading to distribution on a commercial scale. In those cases, good character and personal circumstances would offer comparatively little mitigation.

The following guidelines for sentencing levels by reference to the amount of duty involved were suggested: cases involving less than £10,000 would frequently be properly dealt with by magistrates, but in any event when the amount evaded was in the thousands of pounds custody would generally be called for and, on a plea of guilty, sentences of up to six months would be appropriate; for amounts between £10,000 and £100,000, sentences of between six months and two years would generally be appropriate on a guilty plea; for amounts between £100,000 and £500,000, two to three years on a guilty plea and up to four

years following a trial; for amounts in excess of £500,000, sentences in the region of four years, increasing to the statutory maximum of seven years when £1m or more in duty was evaded, with a suitable discount for a plea of guilty.

In exceptional cases, where many millions of pounds in duty were evaded, consecutive sentences might be appropriate, and the charge, in the alternative, might properly be conspiracy to cheat, which could attract higher sentences than those already indicated. In addition, in an appropriate case, the court should also consider exercising its power to make a deprivation order under s 43 of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973, and to disqualify drivers under s 44 of the Act. Justices had a power to revoke licences, where licensees were involved.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

A little can mean so much

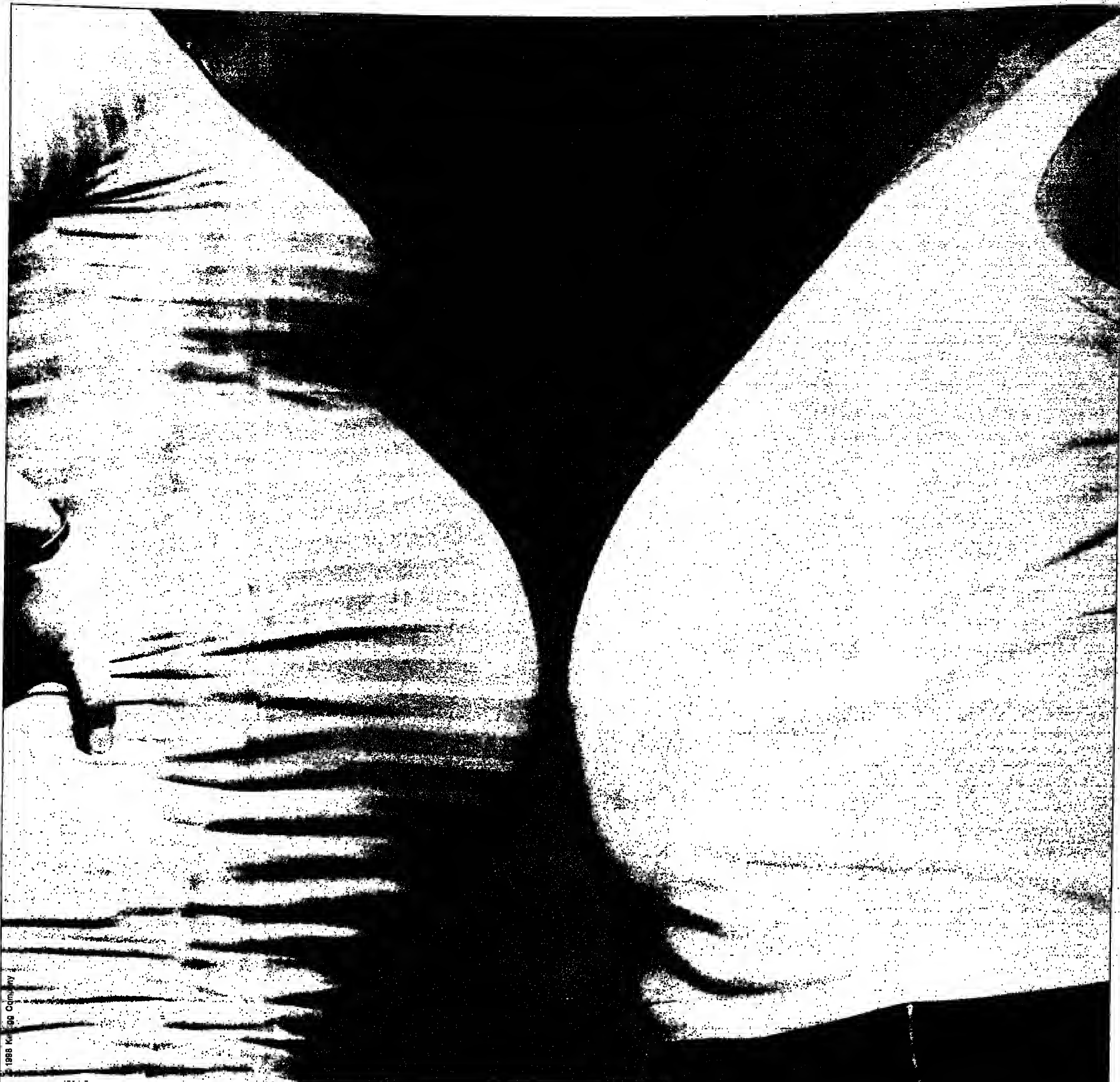
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Double vision: Kapoor's work 'Untitled' (above) looks like a television screen but is, in fact, a slot, leading into a void.

Photograph: Philip Meech

Space invaders

Anish Kapoor's creations draw you into their depths with mesmerising and disturbing effects, says Tom Lubbock

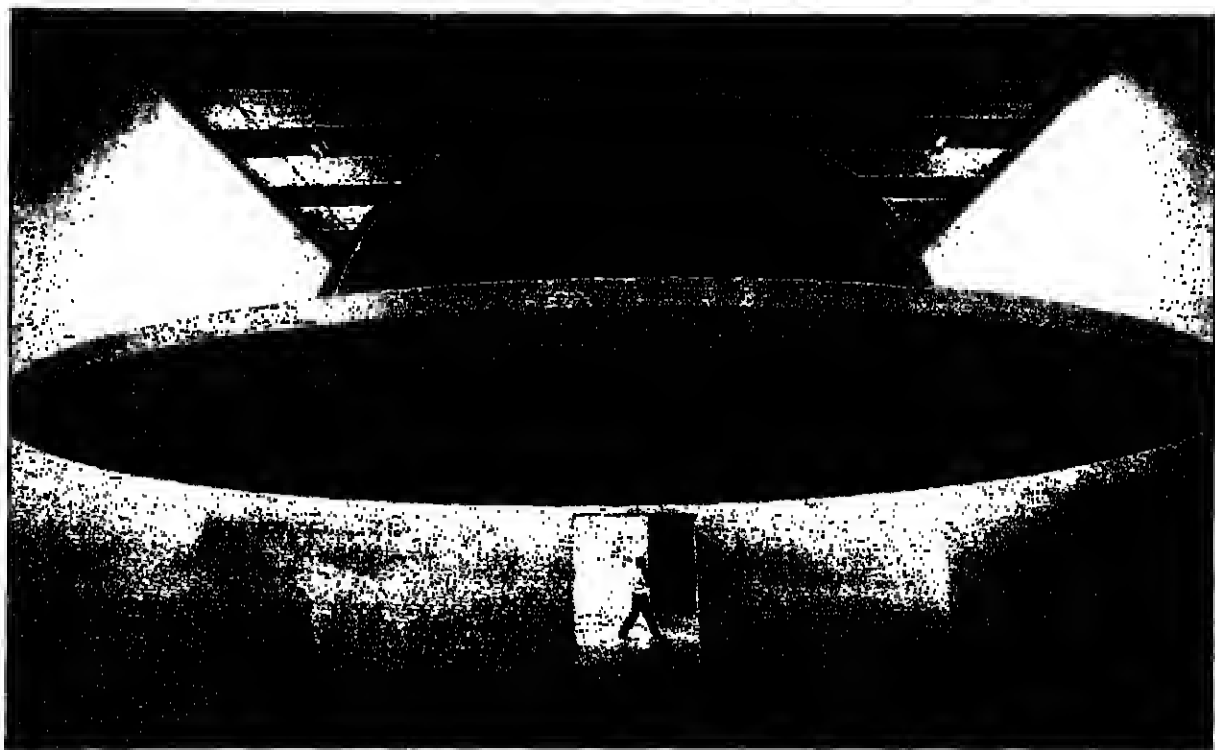
ABOUT optical illusions etc. We animals survive through knowing our way around the world. It's always impressive the way cats, say, refuse to look in mirrors because they realise that mirrors are just hopelessly confusing sources of information. The love of getting lost, the pursuit of bafflement, are distinctly human things. But if that's the kind of creature you are, proceed at once to the Hayward Gallery to see the work of Anish Kapoor.

For the past 15 years this sculptor has been successfully undermining the known world. His first pieces were regular and irregular objects covered in coloured pigments so intense that the eye trying to register their solid volumes only saw a shimmering shape. Later, he began sinking dark cavities into rocks, such black holes that there seemed to be literally nothing inside. And in the past few years Kapoor has brought his illusionistic skills to what looks like their destined perfection.

This recent work is what fills the Hayward. Some of it is sunk into the walls or floors. Some of it is enormous. It's heartening to see an artist knowing completely what he's doing, and I doubt if anyone could not be staggered by these sundry apparitions, transformations and vanishing tricks, whatever value they might put on them afterwards.

The first piece you meet gives a pretty good idea of what's to come. It's called *My Body, Your Body* and it looks at first like something definite: an oblong, the size of a door, painted in deep blue on the white wall. But then you know how in cartoons the prankster will sometimes "pick up" a man-hole - take it from the ground as if it were a black disc and lay it down again in the path of the full-guy, whereupon it turns back into a hole? Here it is done for real.

For, approached, this flat suddenly gets deep. It's not painted on, its an oblong slot cut out of the wall, with a deep blue cavity behind. You can put your hand through it. You can catch an echo of your voice in it. But look in, and another thing happens. This cavity appears, not as a hollow chamber, but as a boundless void. You know there is a surface in there somewhere, and not too far back. You know you're looking straight at it. But the eye can't find a place to rest. All you can see is a deep blue yonder, a space without co-ordinates. The eye's first guess was that this floating blueness was painted on the wall. Now it seems to be nowhere at all.



'At the Edge of the World II' (above) is all-enveloping, beneath it you lose your bearings as the world turns upside down. Standing between 'Double Mirror' (left), your image fractures and threatens to disappear. Photographs: Philip Meech

And then a further development: you can, at certain angles, just get a glimpse of what's really there, the interior contour of the cavity. The eye catches a curved highlight, revealing the rim of a plunging, vulva-like hole. But this form is visible so fleetingly that you never get a clear view of it, and may wonder whether it, too, isn't an apparition. The only constants are the oblong shape and the colour blue.

I dwell on *My Body, Your Body* because it has all Kapoor's main effects - an illusion of something definite, an illusion of something absolutely indefinite, a glimpse of what's really there. In other words they happen in a different order, or with different emphases. The results can be even more astonishing.

Untitled, which sits in the second room, looks like a huge, curvaceous, futuristic telly with a wide screen showing luminous grey. But this "screen" is another slot, through to another hollow, another void, and the whole thing becomes a kind of tardis, a finite fibreglass egg containing an infinite gulf of air - and you really can't focus at all on the inside of the cavity.

Or again, what's really there may be quite obvious illusion, when it happens, the more startling. Upstairs, there is another fibreglass object, *White Dark*, a

10ft-high white cuboid, with a great dimple-crater smoothly sucked into one of its faces. You see that clear enough. But move a little, and this face goes firm and flat like the rest. Move again and the solid form dematerialises, turns to a vague mist. When I am pregnant is more daring still. A teat-like protuberance, rising out of a wall, though sharply visible in profile, simply disappears when seen straight on.

For 20 years Kapoor has been successfully undermining the known world

All this is very satisfying. The art is sure of its effects. They are perfectly judged and perfectly executed. (I wasn't so interested in the works that used mirrors: their surprises weren't so surprising). What's more, this sureness promotes community among viewers. We're all having the same disorienting experiences and we know it. It's not a matter of taste or imagination, it's a matter of eye-brain

function, and this unanimity, rare in art galleries, is satisfying, too (though a little frustrating for the critic, who can only add his cool to the chorus).

But beyond this basic shared experience, Kapoor's audience is likely to divide significantly. Standing, say, beneath the final work, *At the Edge of the World*, a massive red bell-dome which, when you get under it and look up, acquires the elevating vastness of a starless night sky, one lot of viewers will be saying: "I am losing all sense of the boundaries of the world and of myself. I am entering an altered state." And these people will probably be more susceptible, also, to the many ways that the experience can be interpreted - psychologically, sexually, spiritually - indeed, there really seems no limit to the metaphors you can make of Kapoor's illusions. But another lot of viewers will simply be saying: "This effect is extraordinarily clever and fascinating. I wonder how it's done."

You could feel both, I guess. I had a really spacey time of it, I'm with the latter lot. Bewildered, I want to know how I'm being bewildered. I mean, Kapoor's lighting must be very carefully controlled, but are specifically light-diffusing pigments and materials being used? And the smoothness of

the curves is clearly crucial to making contours dematerialise, but is some actual maths involved too?

And this practical attitude is likely to take Kapoor's superbly calculated disorientations less as a revelation or an ecstatic state or even a thrilling semi-scare, more as a salutary warning of how fragile our sensory survival mechanism can be. What some see as sublime, uncanny, are just breakdowns and short-circuits. If all life was like this, we wouldn't stand a chance. The bottom line is, we have to sort such things out. Or that's what my lot says.

But what I think is admirable about Kapoor's work is that it doesn't insist either way. It allows each party its response. It holds its ground between the material and the transcendental. It urges only, what is plainly true, that things can sometimes get very mysterious, and mystery always makes a claim. Humans clearly have a penchant for such breakdown experiences, and perhaps are bound to find them meaningful. A cat would sensibly avert its gaze, but we can't tear our eyes away.

Anish Kapoor's work is at the Hayward Gallery, London SE1, until 14 June.

Revealing the reality behind the illusion

The origins of a masterpiece of surrealism have been ignored for 17 years, writes John Windsor



Ceci n'est pas une pipe

THE enigma of René Magritte's famous painting of a pipe still puzzles the crowds that shuffle past it at the big centenary retrospective exhibition of his work in his home town, Brussels. Its secret - a private joke of Magritte's - might have died with him but for detective work by a young academic whose revelations have been passed over by art historians for 17 years.

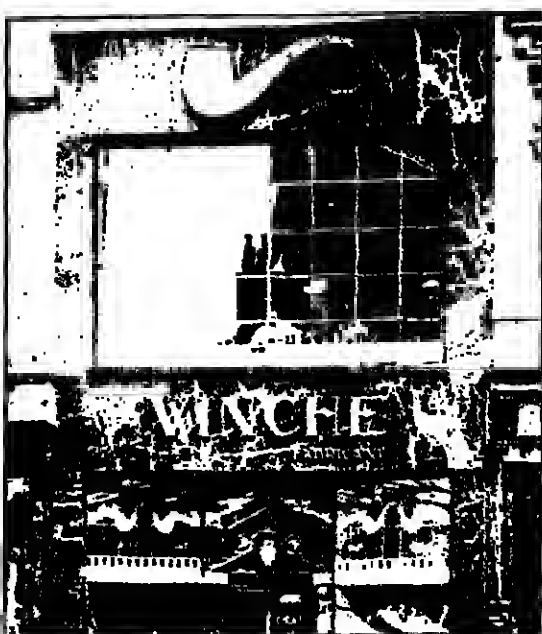
"This is not a pipe" says the Belgian Surrealist's inscription. That's the point, in fact, only a representation of a pipe - flat, two-dimensional. *Ceci n'est pas une pipe*. "No," Magritte must have chuckled to himself, "and it never was."

A tall story? Back in 1980, Silvano Levy, now senior lecturer in French at Keele University, was researching a PhD thesis on Magritte. He spotted a photograph of Vinche's shopfront in a book on Twentieth-century dressing. "Suddenly, Magritte's pipe flashed in front of my eyes. The photograph had been taken in 1927, the year before Magritte painted his pipe. It was dominant, overwhelming in size. Just like the pipe in the painting."

A descendant of Vinche, located through the Brussels telephone directory, supplied Levy with the original photograph of the shopfront, as it then was, but had no tales to tell about Magritte. Nevertheless, the photograph showed not only the giant pipe screwed to the second-floor facade, but two pairs of pipes in stained glass in the shop window that were the exact shape and pose of a pair of pipes that Magritte had drawn, joined at the mouthpiece.

"That clinched it for me", he said. "I realised I had found the source of one of the most famous images of the 20th century." But he still lacked first-hand evidence that Magritte had ever clapped eyes on Vinche's pipes. Soon afterwards, he found himself taking tea and petits fours in the comfortable Brussels sitting room of Magritte's late widow, Georgette, then nearly 80. Instantly recognisable as the artist's model - poised, polite and still beautiful - she sat at the piano and played him airs by Satie, just as she had for Renoir. But she had never heard him talk about the origins of the pipe. "Yes," she said, "he would have known of the shop". But then, so did everyone else in Brussels. It was Louis Scutenaire, who worked with Magritte, who formed up the connection. "Yes," he told Levy, "Magritte knew the shop and walked past it practically every week."

Like Georgette's house, Scutenaire's was encrusted with paintings by Magritte. There were even Magrittes hanging over the bath. "What would happen if they fell in?" Levy asked him. "Then they would get wet," was the reply. Levy had, of course, already visited the shop. He



Linked? The sign above Vinche's shop (above) and Magritte's 'Ceci n'est pas une pipe' (top) Photographs: Giraudon/Bridgeman Art Library/DACS

found the source of one of the most famous images of the 20th century. But he still lacked first-hand evidence that Magritte had ever clapped eyes on Vinche's pipes.

Levy published his findings in a paper, "René Magritte and Window Display" in *Artforum* No 28 of March 1981. Since then, the paper has been occasionally cited in standard works on Magritte, but the discovery of the original pipe has not got a mention. A pity, thinks Levy. "The significance of discovering that Magritte's pipe originates from a 2D image is that, in reality, in the world in which we live and breathe, the 2D world exists in its own right. It's a major additional step in the interpretation of Magritte's painting that academics and writers have not fully appreciated."

Is anything left of Vinche's pipe? Gazing upwards where it had been screwed to the shop's marble cladding, Levy could discern its shape. The marble was paler where the pipe had protected it from the weather. Not a pipe. Not even a representation of a pipe. Just a virtual reality. But a reality all the same.

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Prescott deserves a clear road

HOW WAS the bank holiday weekend for you? We hope that you weren't one of the poor souls who were delayed for 63 minutes on the Virgin Express from Birmingham to Edinburgh. Or caught in the nasty jams around Rothersthorpe services on the M1. Or any other of the ritual endurance tests.

Well, the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, is the man responsible for sorting out, as much as any mortal politician can, the transport mess. In fact it might not be too great an exaggeration to say that all of John Prescott's life has been a preparation for the White Paper on an integrated transport policy which he is due to unveil next month. It is as if young Johnny has been up in his Whitehall bedroom for months grappling with his train set, strategically ordering his toy cars and planes and boats, and, most importantly, his bus collection, manfully trying to, well, integrate them. All this so he can unveil the tableau to the whole school and win first prize in the "Sixth Form Integrated Transport Policy" competition. It is even said that another of the prefects, Gordon Brown, has been allowed to cast an eye over things and thought that the plan to introduce charges on motorists to ease congestion a jolly clever wheeze. But, entirely uninvited, along comes that little squirt, Geoffrey Norris, from the No 10 policy unit nursery school down the road. He then presumptuously tells him - John Prescott - that the Headmaster, Mr Blair, has heard that the plans are too unfriendly to cars, which, doesn't he realise, are a liberating force.

It must have been hard to take. Mr Prescott is rightly wary of being patronised by people he might consider his social, political or intellectual equals, let alone the likes of Geoffrey Norris (Mr Prescott describes his sort as "teeny boppers"). But Mr Prescott must, once again, do what he has become rather good at - calm down, ignore the criticism and get on with the job. There will be more support for him than he might think.

It is hard to exaggerate the importance of the White Paper on Transport Policy. It will be the first look at the whole picture for 20 years. The projected growth in road traffic is unsustainable. By all accounts the White Paper will have some excellent and radical ideas on which Mr Prescott should indeed stand his ground. He should do this both for the sake of the policy itself and also for the good of new Labour. Mr Blair's party is in danger of being all-too-easily accused of running away from radical policy initiatives that might frighten middle England's horses, no matter what might be in the long-term interests of the country as a whole. Mr Prescott says that "hard and difficult" choices must be made. Some of the hints about what will be in the White Paper suggest that they will indeed be challenging ideas. They should be supported.

Local councils should indeed be given powers to levy "congestion charges" on motorists who bring their cars into towns and cities at peak times, and should also be allowed to place heavy taxes on "private non-residential parking", which would affect people who use their cars to go to work or shop. Shops, offices and factories should be charged for parking. The money raised can be used by councils to finance transport projects and should not be simply swallowed up by the Treasury, a point the Chancellor seems to have conceded. Mr Prescott does, however, need to look carefully at the potential problem of neighbouring towns competing to levy the lowest charges in the interests of stimulating trade. If workable measures were brought in they would also give the biggest liberating and reinvigorating boost to local government that we will have seen in decades.

Mr Blair and his policy wonks are right to feel anxious about the political impact of the proposals. But Mr Blair has shown himself both ready to engage in political argument and unafraid of the task of persuading people that changes which seem to be damaging are necessary, and in the long term also to their advantage. Of course the motor car is a liberating force. The automobile is not an "enemy". Would that we had a public transport system that could offer the same choices - and at cost that competes with the marginal costs of using a car. But we cannot afford to duck the hard issues, the problems of pollution and congestion, the inadequacies of public transport that many of us have to face every day. We all of us suffer as consumers of foul air, as parents and as commuters as well as road-users if we fail to tackle the issues. We must wind down gently our reliance on the car and boost decent public transport.

"John Prescott saves the planet" is not a headline we are ever likely to see. But his work at the Kyoto summit on the environment and his efforts to make a workable transport policy - which stretch back way into the years of opposition - deserve all of our support. Mr Prescott has shown that he can be an enormous asset to this government by eschewing spin and getting on with the job. Mr Blair should call off his bossy messenger boys.

Send her off and let me watch the football!

MOST BRITISH men would rather watch the World Cup on television than have sex with the woman of their dreams, according to a recent survey. What is going on?

The detailed findings are, if anything, even more difficult to fathom. Think about Denise van Outen. Think about Kate Moss. But more than 95 per cent of men aged 20-34, and surely at the peak of their libido, said that not even the chance of going to bed with their fantasy woman would tear them away from the screen after kick-off this summer. Well, Scotland are playing, after all. The over-35s are said to be more likely to be distracted by Kim Basinger or some other sex symbol turning up on their doorsteps, but still only 40 per cent of them admitted they could be lured away by a dream woman, with 60 per cent sticking to Argentina vs Cameroon. Reminding ourselves of the welter of opinion polls on the Government's first year, we are confronted with the possibility that sex is less popular than new Labour. These are dangerous times. Who will you be playing this summer?



MILES KINGTON

WHEN CHRIS SMITH said the other day that he did not consider Dylan necessarily inferior to Keats, he was, whether he knew it or not, offending at least three sets of people.

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pleased, but there must have been a lot of people who were left unmoved precisely because they didn't have very strong feelings about either. It would be nice to speak up for them.

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There are certain things we are meant to treat as Western icons, and woe betide us if we opt out of too many of them. The Bible and Shakespeare are two of them, which is why they are dished out to guests on *Desert Island Discs* like sea-sickness pills. But Mozart and/or Wagner ... football ... Magritte ... opera ... Stravinsky ... Picasso ... the Rolling Stones ... Princess Diana ... Oscar Wilde ... these are all pin-ups of the times, and you must be very careful of your ground before you cast aspersions at such holy cows.

Well, I wonder if there are many more like me with severe doubts in the field of modern art, especially modern sculpture. I first realised that I had troubles here when I failed, after years of trying, to derive any enjoyment at all from Henry Moore. This distressed my friend and colleague at *Punch*, the assistant art editor Geoffrey Dickinson, who actually dragged me along

to a big Moore exhibition at the Tate to convert me. It was useless. I still saw nothing in Moore. So I was rather glad that Geoff was not around when I went, some years back, to the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens and wandered round a Barbara Hepworth show in the open air. This was different from the Moore experience. Moore left me cold. Hepworth I actively disliked. Her shapes seemed sullen and heavy, and depressing. They dragged down the fresh greenness of the gardens, and slowed the dance of nature to a halt. Most unpleasant.

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art seriously in either. Most of the contents of the Tate was, I think, modish rubbish, but the Hepworth not only seemed as heavy and as lifeless as I remembered it from Edinburgh, it also seemed terribly dated - it reminded me of a lot of the mannered stuff washing around in the 1950s which made it such a good decade to get out of.

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'Paedophile art'

I DON'T think Margaret Kennedy's article (29 April) was an "intemperate outburst", as Eamon Duffy makes out. Indeed his and Ian Hurdley's letters on the subject of the Eric Gill Stations of the Cross in Westminster Cathedral (30 April) betray in a classic way how those who have not suffered put down those who have. To victims it seems that the church so often sides with the offender. Art, gifts and wealth are what appear to count more than the cry for help.

Of course we all have our dark sides, artists sometimes more than others, and art may be a redemptive activity. However, if this is so with Gill and his work is to be retained, then both aspects need to be made plain, and the sufferings of people like Margaret Kennedy must be taken into account. The church (of any denomination) so often neglects to do this, substituting the necessary vision with a glib triumphalism. Gill the artist is remembered; Gill the sinner, even the redeemed and forgiven sinner, is forgotten, and with him those he damaged.

One reason is that art historians and critics like to think that art is all-important and any disparagement is philistine. Another is one-upmanship by the church. Gill was a convert to Catholicism; therefore he has to be an adornment. It is difficult to admit that those who swallow your medicine remain flawed. (Again, all churches are the same.) When Gill worked, we knew much less about paedophilia. Now we have the knowledge, the way in which his work is displayed needs to be reassessed. "Great art transcends the limitations of the human beings who make it." Maybe, but what about the viewers? For whose sake is it displayed?

The Rev BA HOPKINSON
Stanton, Middlesbrough

MAYBE removal of the Westminster Cathedral Stations of the Cross executed by the paedophile Eric Gill is not feasible. However, we believe there should be recognition and support of Christian Survivors of Sexual Abuse.

Perhaps a new piece of art could

be created for Westminster Cathedral as an acknowledgement of the hurt and suffering caused by such behaviour. It could mark a place of prayer and remembrance for all victims of sexual, physical, mental and spiritual abuse.
LALA WINKLEY
We are Church UK
London SW1

IN GENERAL I agree with Eamon Duffy about the private lives of artists. However, the church is currently struggling to come to terms with a recent history of denial of paedophilia within its ranks. It is not helpful to healing and reconciliation if the hierarchy is perceived to be defending artefacts rather than supporting the human victims. In the circumstances I think the Stations of the Cross should be removed.
JOANNA PALLISTER
Durham

I MUST be one of the few people still living who actually knew Eric Gill. My father, Hilary Pepler, was co-founder with Gill of the Ditchling Community and I was brought up on the Common. I knew all the Gill girls well; the eldest married my eldest brother, David. I remember Eric Gill attempting to teach us children to sing plainsong. He was patient and kind. To suggest that his beautiful carvings in Westminster Cathedral could be in any way an evil influence would be utterly laughable if it were not sinister, leading us back to the Cromwellian times of statue-bashing intolerance.
SUSAN FALKNER
Abergavenny, Gwent

Global labour market

THE NEED for globalisation of markets in capital and of goods seems to be almost universally accepted these days, and now Diane Coyle ("Why global markets need to be open to free information flows",

1 May) makes a case for the equally free flow of information.

She has some caveats about the human, social and environmental dimension of globalisation, yet still omits - as do all commentaries I have seen - any mention of the possibility of including the fourth element of commercial interaction; labour. Somehow, the free movement of this commodity is not deemed to be a good thing; indeed it is anathematised as "economic migration", and controls on it get ever tighter. Yet the poor have nothing else to sell, and their inclusion within the global economy would benefit all of us.

What makes labour so different from the other elements of commerce? Is it just that you can't sell shares in it?

BILL LINTON
London N13

Debate that never was

LORD HOLMES's article on the party leaders' television debate that never happened (*Media*, 27 April) added some fascinating new information - above all the confirmation that the parties did conduct secret negotiations with one another face-to-face. Lord Holmes worked hard to make the debates happen and it is characteristically generous of him to give the broadcasters credit for their efforts even though he deeply disapproved of some of our tactics. But his account of the role played in the negotiations by ITN and ITV is wrong on a number of important facts.

It is not the case that ITN and ITV, working together, put a proposal to the Conservatives first, leaving the opposition parties and the BBC "sitting unhappily on the sidelines". We approached all three parties at the same time with the same proposal. Far from being on the sidelines, the BBC was making similar proposals to ours to all three parties. It is not the case that the Con-

servatives instantly "accepted" the ITN/ITV proposal. They did not, and we negotiated with them on the same basis as the other two parties. They finally accepted our proposal as Labour set a deadline and the negotiations collapsed at the end of the first week of the election campaign. Lord Holmes says we gave too much to the Conservatives - and told us so at the time. But at the same time the Conservatives were telling us we had given too much to the Liberal Democrats and Labour was telling us that they wanted an almost completely different programme from the one we had proposed.

The reality is that by the end of the first week of the election campaign both we and the BBC had resolved all the serious objections and obstacles to a debate taking place. The final issues of minor adjustments to timings and structure would have seemed trivial to anyone outside the hothouse world of politics in the middle of a general election. In the end none of the parties wanted the debate enough to make some very small compromises. Of course the broadcasters have lessons to learn - but the parties really cannot blame us for their failure to agree.

RICHARD TAIT
Editor-in-Chief
ITN
London WC1

O horror!

YOUR OBITUARY of Pauline Réage (2 May), and her notorious *Histoire d'O*, recalled the sheer disappointment of buying the book as a young man. As a model railway enthusiast, always eager to read about small-gauge railway engines and rolling stock, one was mortified to discover in translation that the *Story of O* was something other than a history of Hornby. Basset Lowke et al. ROBERT VINCENT
Andover, Hampshire

Snowdonia railway

ANDREW GORDON makes a plea (letter, 29 April) for railways as a means of access to national parks. He may not be familiar with the detail of the Snowdonia proposal.

The National Park and local authorities have a traffic study underway and we should not be surprised if restrictions are suggested for private cars. The proposed railway can only make economic sense, however, with a vast increase in visitor numbers. Future transport demand (excluding railway enthusiasts) can be cheaply met by an improved bus service.

In addition to the concerns of farmers and traders mentioned in your report of 27 April, significant sections of the derelict trackbed have been used for many years as walking routes, by visitors and locals alike. Although suitable diverted routes are possible in some places, in others there is no alternative. Near the Snowdon Ranger youth hostel, for instance, the only real option would be a twisting and dangerous main road.

PETE BLAND
Vice-chairman, Ramblers' Association, North Wales Area
Chester

Cannabis cure

PETE BARRETT (letter 27 April) writes that all the cannabis users he knows are addicted to tobacco. This should not be used as an argument to support the continued ban on cannabis. Many regular users are now choosing to smoke it neat or make cakes and drinks in light of continued evidence of the dangers of tobacco.

Indeed, I know a number of life-long smokers who have used cannabis as an effective means to quit the tobacco habit. One, in particular, who had tried virtually every method of giving up and had not used the drug before, found that an occasional smoke of cannabis not only satisfied the craving for the feeling of smoke in the lungs, but enabled him to cope with nicotine craving as well.

It is ridiculous that the dangerous drug is legal while the therapy is not.

JUSTIN BRETT
Gibwern, Gwent

Beethoven? Pompous. Hepworth? Depressing. Let's slaughter the sacred cows of culture



MILES KINGTON

WHEN CHRIS SMITH said the other day that he did not consider Dylan necessarily inferior to Keats, he was, whether he knew it or not, offending at least three sets of people.

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Don't worry about selling the family silver – just buy more



ANDREAS
WHITTAM SMITH
ON FOREIGN
TAKEOVERS

I DON'T think we should mind at all that three British businesses, each household names founded at the turn of the century, look about to come under foreign ownership. I am referring to Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, the RAC motoring organisation and to EMI, one of the biggest record companies in the world. All three have received takeover offers from overseas. Rolls-Royce is the subject of a battle for control between BMW and Volkswagen and the price may reach £500m. The RAC breakdown service is being sold to an American company, Centad, which, having just bought National Car Parks and the Green Flag breakdown service, wants to create a powerful rival to the Automobile Association. EMI is in a different league. We are talking billions of pounds rather than hundreds of millions. The secret suitor is probably Seagram, the giant Canadian drinks and music publishing group.

Concern about foreign take-overs is not limited to third world countries worried about exploitation. I have a bit of sympathy with Canada, where the US has a commanding presence. The fear that the Canadian economy could become a collection of branch offices for American multinationals is understandable. It generates a feeling of powerlessness. To take a local example, you find the same sentiment on Merseyside, which long ago lost the headquarters of renowned businesses such as Unilever, Royal Insurance and Cunard. I am less impressed by French hostility to foreign ownership, which appears to be chauvinistic. France's desire always to find a "French solution" when companies find themselves in receipt of foreign take-overs has weakened rather than strengthened its industry. The French are much less successful than they should be in international banking and in information technology for this reason. Among advanced industrial nations, however, Japan is the most extreme example of resistance to foreign ownership. The door has been tightly shut, partly by the prevalence of cross-shareholding. But now that the Japanese way of doing business is in disarray, that may have to change. The UK and the US have the least resistance to foreign take-overs and, in turn, are the most aggressive in returning the compliment.

As a matter of fact, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars and the RAC breakdown service will almost certainly benefit from a change in ownership. Rolls-Royce's present owners, Vickers, cannot afford the investment needed to sustain the luxury car maker in the marketplace. BMW's plans include doubling the workforce to about 4,000 and tripling out-

put to 6,000 cars a year. In the case of the RAC's breakdown service, its present owners are, after all, a West End club. It is right that the Club's 12,000 members should cash in to the tune of around £34,000 each and the Club retain an endowment of £30m while the business goes to owners focused on commercial considerations. Stronger competition with the AA will be beneficial for motorists. EMI is a different proposition. It is viable on its own, albeit not doing very well. It is a record publisher, whose skill is finding and developing artists and genres; it is a valuable intellectual property, comprising an amazing backlist ranging from the Beatles to Callas, and it is also a disc manufacturer. As a small shareholder myself, I shall be disgusted if the chairman, Sir Colin Southgate (the man also charged with rescuing the Royal Opera House) does not arrange an auction that obtains a sky-high price.

But these famous companies are going into foreign ownership. Does this really matter? It certainly irks some of the shareholders in the present British owners of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, Vickers. At last week's annual meeting they were loudly critical of the decision to sell. They were "disgusted" and "outraged" at the disposal of a "national jewel". Nor were they mollified by the decision to return £197m of the sale proceeds directly to them. Amazingly, when the chairman, Sir Colin Chandler, asked shareholders if they wanted the money returned, he was met with shouts of "no".

I have two responses to this. In the first place, British companies can come along and bid for Rolls-Royce, the RAC and EMI if they wish to do so. In particular, the price ticket for Rolls-Royce is within the buying range of the United Kingdom's top 100 companies; and the business has been unofficially on sale for many years. If you want to be disgusted about these sales, you have to blame the absence of British buyers as well as the decisions of the sellers.

Second, consider how one might invest the proceeds of the sales back into British industry and help create new, vibrant businesses. In the case of the motor industry, while nobody has been looking, so to speak, this country has created, in the past 25 years or so, a series of world-beating small companies. They manufacture racing cars for Formula One and the American equivalent, and dominate motor racing. The sector comprises a web of small, creative, highly specialised engineering companies. In their way the managers of these companies are quite as innovative and audacious as the original Mr Rolls and Mr Royce.

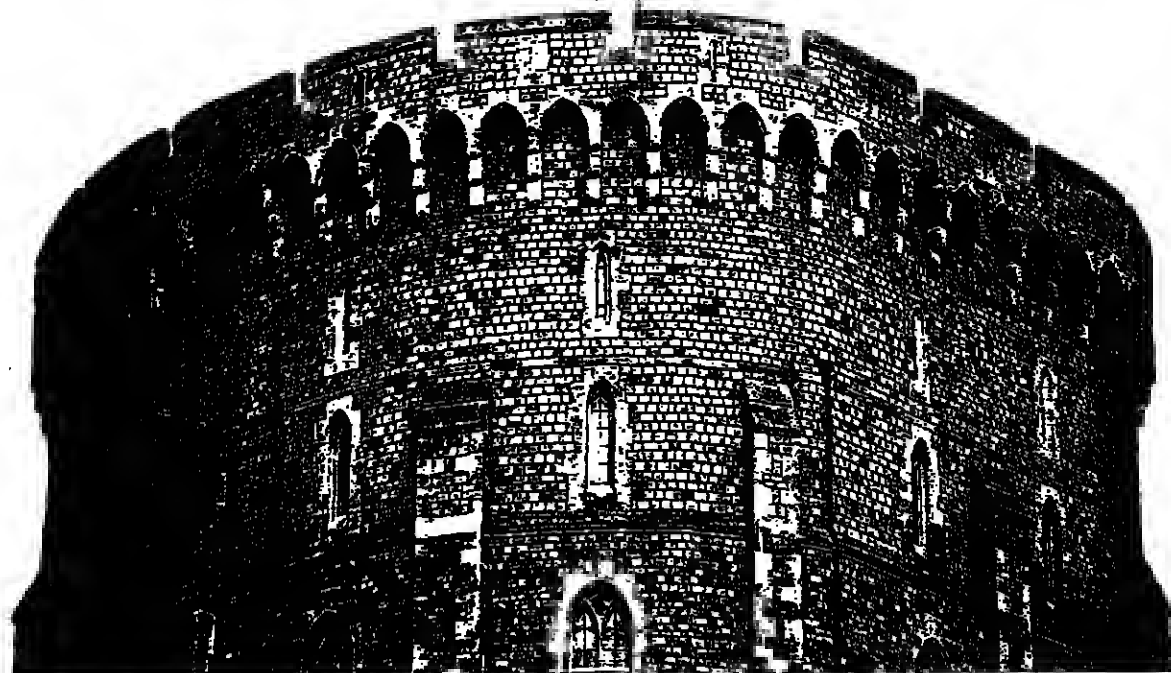
The same situation exists in the British record industry. While EMI is one of the big six companies which control 70 per cent of the world's record business, the United Kingdom is well represented in the remaining 30 per cent. I am not saying that creating a new record label is easy, but it is done. There is a seed-bed of exciting British ventures in music publishing out of which can emerge businesses that match EMI for verve if not for size.

In short, when a foreign buyer comes along and offers a great deal of money for a British household name, shareholders should say "thank you very much" and re-invest in something more promising. The wringing of hands and the expression of regrets about selling off the "family silver" or the so-called "Crown Jewels" is literally useless.

The Queen may invite the artists to her place, but will they come?



ROSIE
MILLARD
ARTS DIARY



I MUST confess to feeling somewhat smug as I sat in a long line of traffic one evening last week. The queue of cars was waiting along a private drive of about a mile long. At the top of the drive was Windsor Castle. With the Royal Ensign flying from its flag-battlements, I looked at the Ensign and considered that, in a very very small way, the flag was flying because of me, since the Queen was at Home for a drinks party to which I was invited.

The Queen's first ever party for the creative mob was heralded a few months ago, in fairly traditional style. A gilt-edged invitation, post-marked Buckingham Palace had announced in flowing script that one had been invited by her Majesty's Command to an "evening for the arts". Altogether, it had a sort of nonchalance about it. As if this was the sort of event which happened all the time between the Queen and her creative subjects.

Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. The Queen is not, and has never been, noted for her interest in the arts, no matter how many institutions she is Patron of. It appears she doesn't even like to sit through a full-length drama either. When she declared the Globe Theatre open last year on an evening of "Shakespeare's Greatest Hits" was performed, rather than a whole play. Windsor Castle had never declared itself at Home to the arts establishment before. Equally, arts people have never been ardent Royals.

Perhaps, before the tumultuous events of 1997, the monarchy never needed to concern itself with the arts. But as much as last year was about Diana, so it was also about the pre-eminence and importance of modern British culture, both around the world and at home. The

Queen had clearly been advised it is time to get to know Cool Britannia, perhaps she and Tony had even discussed the guest list.

Arriving at the car park I sensed a distinct air of hysterical excitement amongst the guests. We all boarded a small Royal Coach, possibly one normally used by the Royals, which was to take us from car park to Castle. A saucy Danielle Steele novel was discovered lying on the back seat. More hysteria when the name "Andrew" was found inscribed on the fly-leaf.

We walked in under ceilings encrusted with shameless amounts of gold and were handed glasses of gin and tonic by red-jacketed flunkies. I sort of almost bumped into Michael Caine. This was going to be a good night.

Yet there were plenty in the arts world who did not respond positively to the splendid invitation. Everyone knew who the refusniks were, for as well as the drinks, we were also each handed a ring-bound booklet containing the Guest List. Interestingly – and bravely – at the back of the book was a list of Refusniks. Whether those under the category of "Also Invited" had declined because of their republican beliefs or a diary clash was unclear, but the two lists made a fascinating comparison.

Eight hundred or so were invited. Those who turned up included: Beryl Bainbridge, Lord Gower, Kenneth Branagh, Helena Bonham-Carter, Corinna Street's Ken Barlow, Richard Sillgoe, the war artists Peter Howson and John Keane, and the conceptual artist Mark Wallinger (presumably a Royal favourite because he once bought a working racehorse and exhibited it as a Real Work Of Art).

Not a bad crowd at all, but all the same, not terribly surprising. Helena Bonham-Carter, for one, greeted Princess Margaret with kisses on both cheeks as if she had seen her only last week for lunch.

However, there were over three hundred in the arts world who had turned down the invitation to bobnob with the Windsors. Among these were: Alan Bennett, the sculptor Rachel Whiteread, the painter Gary Hume, Richard E. Grant, radical architect Daniel Libeskind, Sir Richard Eyre, Sir Ian McKellen, Elton John (as if), and Gary Oldham (ditto).

Was it a question of one Cool Britannia bash too many? A symptom of the recent *froideur* between the arts crowd and Tony Blair? Or just a coincidence that many of the people who didn't come were Artists With Attitude.

Obviously, this was not the case with every refusal. I'm sure Cliff Richard and Welsh craft specialist Geraint Jenkins, to name just two, do not believe that artists should be distant from the monarchy. I learnt that Neil Macgregor, the charming director of the National Gallery, was away in Scotland. Lenny Henry was hardly staying away on principle, given that his wife Dawn French was there in full flow, hugging everyone in sight. The Queen's own Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes, wasn't in evidence, but then he never gives TV interviews either.

However, I feel sure some people declined because they felt they should. For likes of film-maker Mike Leigh, director Deborah Warner and Lucien Freud, attending drinkies with the Queen would probably seem like hypocrisy. These are people whose work has remained true to the classical ideal of art. Although

lauded by the establishment, their art is a baying presence outside it. They produce difficult stuff; they are not entertainers, but thorns in society's smug mediocrity.

To see them parading in smart clothes at Windsor Castle would have been awful. It would be cynical. It would be capitulation. How much better to bump into Michael Caine at Windsor Castle, than to actually bump into Mike Leigh.

So if serious artists stayed away, why were we there? Firstly, flattery. It was jolly nice to be invited. Secondly, curiosity. To see the Windsors' circular lawn, nail-scissored to perfection, and the flunkies close up, was surreally exciting. To get within sniffing distance of inconceivable wealth. To feel, for once, part of the club.

And thirdly, because the evening provided a truly communal experience for artists, arts administrators and arts journalists from across the country. Rather than squabbling over Arts Council grants, here we were talking to each other over sausages on sticks and mini-pizzas (such ironically hip canapés), and from time to time, gawping at the Queen. She might not be an arts buff, but she seemed to be having an amusing evening.

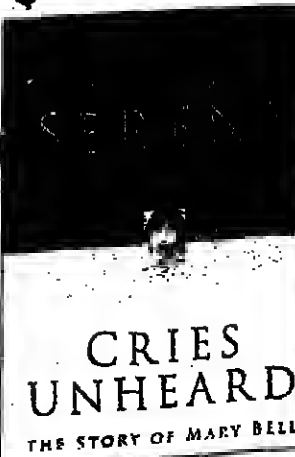
My most cherished moment came when I witnessed Joan Collins introduce Shirley "Goldfinger" Bassey to Trevor Nunn, the new director of the National Theatre. The Queen of Sequins meets the King of Distressed Concrete. The worry of a resultant co-production has been on my mind ever since.

Rosie Millard is arts correspondent of the BBC.

What a difference reading the whole book makes



BOYD
TONKIN
FIRST REVIEW
OF 'MARY BELL'



SHORTLY after Hitler invaded France in 1940, a charity caring for abandoned children moved its base to the fairy-tale chateau of Villandry in the Loire. Two German officers, posted to the area, tried to show some goodwill by supplying food and medicines to the children. They were met not with a grateful nurse at the chateau – a Vienna-born teenager from a landed Hungarian family.

Gitta Sereny now thinks that the officers meant well. She recalls her fury "with shame and sorrow". The girl's rage reveals much about the woman, though. That intrepid youngster grew into the steely inquisitor who now shows no sign of regret at the feeding-frenzy triggered by her second book on Mary Bell. Having taken on the *Wehrmacht*, she will hardly buckle before *The Sun*. Yet she also arrived at second thoughts about the soldiers. She learned to look behind the uniform that defined them as wrongdoers.

In remorseless detail, *Cries Unheard* strips away the uniforms that Mary Bell has worn: the 11-year-old "psychopath" wrongly labelled at her trial in 1968; the "frightening freak" emblazoned in headlines, then and now; the charming waif indulged by a clueless penal system – and the self-serving "victim" who denied her guilt until the grueling interviews in 1996 that underpin this book. At its close, with the actual victims' families explicitly in mind, Sereny concludes that "no evil was felt, no evil intended, only a child's ultimate despair led to this tragedy".

Under all the overlapping disguises, Sereny reaches the "horribly confused child to whom something dreadful had at some time been done". That trauma entailed being offered by her prostitute mother as an extra service to her clients, from the age of four. Yet, crucially, the confessional torment that produced *Cries Unheard* also peels away the mask of Mary's denial. She not only at last admits the killing of Martin Brown and Brian Howe but, under Sereny's forensic gaze, resurrects her fragile state: "it's an abyss ... it's beyond rage, beyond pain, it's black cotton wool".

The book as a whole rocks between past and present, known facts and new discoveries, what Mary did and what was done to her. The two strands intertwine, as chain-linked cause and consequence. She even reveals that she wished to castrate little Brian Howe: "taking away the offending organ", she puts it.

One has to read the entire work to grasp this finely-balanced moral symmetry. For that reason, Sereny's willingness to see it crudely extracted in *The Times* has proved to be a terrible error. This careful equilibrium was lost: the book seemed more simply sensational, and more of an apology, than it is the case.

The opening trial revisits the Newcastle trial in the light of later interviews. Between this part and the barrowing denouement lies a long, oddly good-humoured account of Mary's experiences in prison until 1980. These years pass almost as a pastoral interlude.

Despite further sexual abuse,

she enjoyed her spell at Red Bank secure unit, thanks to the paternal affection shown by its head. But, as Sereny makes clear, James Dixon's love was not enough. His refusal to challenge her deepened Mary's denial. She took the "innocent" persona constructed there into adult jails. There she also learned how to perfect a protective shell. As a temporary "bitch" at Styal prison, she controlled her many female lovers. Along with that role went an unlikely carapace of masculinity. When a staff member took her to buy lingerie at Marks & Spencer, she snorted "I don't wear knickers; I wear Y-fronts." That "offending organ" was still

chaplain, Georges Casalis. The probation officers play glowing tributes to Mary as a caring mother; and Sereny underlines the rift between the "chaotic" personality still wrestling with her past and the devoted provider for her daughter.

Then comes the excruciating double endgame. Mary's tearful reconstruction of the toddlers' deaths alternates with searing tales of the pitiless mother who screamed "Take the thing away from me" at her daughter's birth in 1957. Most unbearable is the litany of Mary's childhood cries for help, which give the book its title and purpose. One day, Betty almost drowned Mary. That evening, she beat her

The public realm did too little for children at risk in the 1960s. Sometimes, in these ultra-suspicious later years, it has done too much, too ham-fistedly. Avoiding both extremes should be the job that keeps ministers awake. Instead, they waste their time penning populist tabloid claptrap about unread books.

Yet Sereny also has a case to answer. She was born in the Vienna where Sigmund Freud still consulted in his rooms at 19 Berggasse; and in her principles and prescriptions – improved children's services, state-funded therapy, and the rest – she forms part of that heroic generation of emigré women who sought to implant Freudian wisdom into the British public sector. She belongs, unrepentantly, to the milieu of Anna Freud, Melanie Klein, the Tavistock Clinic and its cash-strapped NHS offshoots, with their faith in "the intrinsic goodness of the child".

Sereny acts like a doctor in a world of headline-chasing backs. The very form of *Cries Unheard* – its slow teasing out of secret pain – mimics the therapeutic process. Yet, as a journalist, her methods benefit from none of the formal rules that protect other professionals and their clients. This communion should have modified her choices, or at least her timing. The insight and courage of the teenager who dared to sold the Nazi invaders have never been in doubt. All the same, as *Cries Unheard* so wrenchingly affirms, we can do as much harm by poor judgement as by "evil" intentions.

Cries Unheard is published today by Macmillan at £20.

One has to read the entire work to grasp the finely-balanced moral symmetry

disrupting her sense of self. What brought stability was motherhood. Mary's post-release years meant financial insecurity, as a waitress in seaside towns, but growing emotional rootedness. Here Sereny's account draws on the two probation officers who failed to tell the Home Office of this book's preparation. Along with Mary's own child, these two remarkable women helped awaken self-awareness in their client. Sereny builds on their foundation, just as – in her monumental interrogation of Albert Speer – she rested on the moral breakthrough first made with the supercilious Nazi by the Spandau

son with a dog-chain. The police came but, once again, did nothing and departed. Soon after, Mary reached her "breaking point", and strangled Martin Brown.

Through Sereny's lens, the Mary Bell story is a tragedy of non-intervention: of agencies, relations and neighbours too stupid, timid or busy to spot or stop the systematic assault on a little girl's identity. For me, it brought to mind the time when I tried, as a journalist, to make sense of another child-care calamity in the north-east. The Cleveland affair was, in most but not all cases, a tragedy of premature intervention with faulty diagnostic tools.

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Euro passes the first market test

By Lisa Paterson

CITY traders who turned up for work yesterday found themselves twiddling their thumbs as European financial markets gave a muted reaction to the weekend's "ECB presidency fudge".

European stock markets surged following Friday's rally in the US, but currency markets – the key barometer for market opinion on the euro – remained steady.

Following the decision to split the presidency of the European Central Bank (ECB) between Wim Duisenberg of the Netherlands and a French nominee, the pound was up a penny or so in early trading, but fell back to DM2.967, virtually unchanged from Friday.

Avinash Persaud, global head of currency research at JP Morgan, said: "The weekend's activity has delayed the rise in the mark against sterling, but the mark has not been derailed."

Many of the City workers who sacrificed a day's holiday to come into the office packed up early as the turmoil in the markets predicted by some failed to materialise.

One analyst, speaking on his mobile phone at lunchtime, having left the office for the day, said: "There's not much happening. People were sat around with not much to do."

Of the London markets, only Liffe, the London financial futures exchange, was open for trading yesterday. However, analysts predicted there would be little change in the sterling-mark rate when UK trading recommences today.

Mr Persaud said: "New York is open, and the Anglo Saxon perspective will have filtered into the market by the end of the day."

Analysts said two forces were pulling the sterling-mark exchange rate in opposite directions, meaning the pound was likely to remain unchanged over the next few days. Uncertainty over the euro, heightened by the weekend's prevarications on the presidency of the European Central Bank, tends to bolster sterling, seen in certain quarters as a "safe

haven". However, many analysts now expect the core euro countries, led by the Bundesbank, to push through a rate rise sooner rather than later in an attempt to restore the harm done to their anti-inflationary image by the weekend ECB compromise.

One trader at a German bank said: "The ECB deal has raised speculation that Germany might raise rates sooner or more aggressively, and that's boosting the mark." In early trading in the US, the mark was trading strongly, at DM1.78 to the dollar.

Not all analysts subscribed to the theory that the weekend's compromise equalled monetary tightening in Germany. Graham Bishop, EMU adviser at Salomon Smith Barney, said: "The Bundesbank will monitor domestic German developments, and we don't expect a tougher policy because of this."

Yesterday's surge in the European stock markets was largely attributed to positive sentiment following last week's rally in the US Dow Jones Index, rather than reaction to events in Brussels. "The row over the presidency is seen as a currency market story, not a stock market story," one analyst said.

The French market closed up 2.5 per cent, the German market up 2 per cent, and the FTSE 100 – Europe's first composite equity index for the EMU countries – finished its first day trading up 18 points at 1018.31.

Reaction in the bond markets was mixed, with sentiment initially damaged by worries over European interest rate rises, but recovering later in the day as fears of a US rate rise faded. Analysts predicted the UK markets, which re-open today after the bank holiday, would follow the pattern set yesterday by the rest of Europe, with sterling's strength likely to persist in the short to medium term.

The continued strength of sterling will be unwelcome news for UK exporters, whose difficulties were further illustrated by new figures from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI). The CBI/Pannell Kerr Forster survey reveals sharp falls in manufacturing orders received by small and medium businesses, and says that investment intentions are now their weakest for five years.



Action, but not as they know it: Liffe yesterday, where the expected excitement failed to materialise. Many traders left early

Key dates in the euro timetable

■ 3 May 1998: first-wave participants named; exchange rates set

■ 31 December 1998: changeover weekend; institutions change systems ready to start trading in the euro

■ 1 January 1999: exchange rates irrevocably locked; euro becomes legal currency of participating countries

■ 4 January 1999: electronic trading in the euro begins; no physical notes and coins at this stage

■ 1 January 2002: euro notes and coins introduced; all retail payments to be denominated in the euro

■ 1 July 2002: local currencies withdrawn

Battle to repair damage of the summit's fudge on bank chief

THE SUMMIT was a milestone in the euro timetable, although the fudge on the presidency of the European Central Bank detracted from what should have been a triumphant occasion for participating states.

All 11 hopefuls were given the green light to be in the "first wave" of economic and monetary union (EMU), and European leaders also approved the "bilateral conversion rates", or euro exchange rates.

Those rates will not be irrevocably frozen for seven months. However, the central banks of the 11 participants will be expected to use "appropriate market techniques" to ensure that market exchange rates equal the approved conversion rates.

The next seven months will be critical for the ECB's credibility. The first meeting of the council is scheduled for 2 June, which is earlier than expected.

Analysts predict that ECB officials will be making all sorts of anti-inflationary noises over

the coming months, in an attempt to repair damage done to the bank's credibility over the weekend.

Exchange rates for participating countries will be irrevocably locked on 1 January 1999. From then until 31 December 2001 – the "transition period" – euros will be traded electronically and new issues in government debt will be euro-denominated. It will not be compulsory to trade in the euro, but wholesale financial activity – transactions between financial institutions – is expected to move quickly to the euro standard.

Euro notes and coins will be introduced for first-wave participants on 1 January 2002. Retail activity – transactions between financial institutions and the public – will also be denominated in the euro from this date. The euro notes and coins will co-exist alongside local currencies until 30 June 2002. On 1 July 2002, local currencies will cease to be legal tender.

Cinven raises £1.5bn for second fund

CINVEN, the buyout firm, has raised £1.5bn from 50 institutional investors for its second UK and European buyout fund since 1995. Cinven said this fund, like the first, aimed to invest in profitable businesses that led their markets and which could grow with investment and "focused" management. Deals would be a minimum of £50m and possibly over £1bn, said the company. The first Cinven fund closed in November 1996 and raised more than £1bn. Among its investments was the largest European management buyout of the decade: the £1.1bn purchase of the British and French healthcare assets of Compagnie Générale des Eaux, in July 1997.

BP says No on Carbide

BRITISH PETROLEUM looked at, then abandoned, a proposal to merge Union Carbide with BP's chemicals division, BP spokesman Ian Fowler said yesterday. "We had a proposal brought to us. We looked at it, and it's been abandoned," he said. Carbide had "nothing to say" about press reports that BP had considered and abandoned a proposal to merge Carbide with its chemicals di-

Pub trio set to try again

FORMER Magic Pub trio Philip Snook, Colin Stevens and Tim Fearn have rejoined to create The Ambitious Pub Company, which owns an estate of 31 pubs. The company was formed last August to buy 15 pubs from Grosvenor Inns and 16 pubs and five development sites from Regent Inns. It is set to float on AIM. The trio are only minus the other mastermind behind Magic Pub, Michael Cannon. Magic Pub sold up to Greene King for £200m around 18 months ago. Ambitious's plans an ambitious acquisition strategy aimed at "mainly traditional community style and town centre pubs based around London and the South-east".

Asian fallout hits Australia

AUSTRALIA reported its largest monthly trade deficit, which one economist described as a "wake-up call" about the likely effects of Asia's crisis. The balance on goods and services halved to a deficit of A\$1.327bn in March from a A\$462m deficit in February – the highest since the series began in July 1971.

Pensions suffer Budget deficit

By Andrew Verity

MORE than a quarter of pension schemes have been left with less than the legal minimum of assets they need because of Gordon Brown's July Budget, actuaries have warned.

Leading actuaries Bacon & Woodrow said the July Budget had caused changes to dividend payments which put 26 per cent of company pension schemes in danger of busting a key legal safeguard.

The safeguard, known as the minimum funding require-

ment (MFR), is "falling apart at the seams," according to Bacon & Woodrow. The requirement is designed to protect members from a repeat of the Maxwell affair. It sets a minimum level of funding needed to meet liabilities to members.

It depends crucially on the dividends which schemes can expect to receive. If the dividends slow down or fall, liabilities rise, forcing companies to pour in millions of pounds to top up their pension schemes.

If the worst warnings are correct, a quarter of all pension schemes will be underfunded,

obliging finance directors to pour extra money in.

Penny Webster, a pensions expert at Bacon & Woodrow, said: "Companies weren't expecting anything quite this nasty to happen. If we are in a position where a quarter of schemes are below [the MFR] that is pretty serious."

"What is really bad about this is that a company can be quite prudent and want to protect members' interests. But they still potentially have to put in lots of money because the standard has been fudged."

The Institute of Actuaries

said changes in companies' dividend policies – caused by the July Budget – have driven down the returns pension schemes can expect. That has driven up pension liabilities by more than 50 per cent, quadrupling the number who may fall outside the law.

Harvie Brown, the leading expert on pensions at the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries, said: "Companies used to use dividends to reward their shareholders. But now dividends are taxed they are finding other ways to reward their shareholders – such as buy-backs. Dividend yields have gone

down and the contributions will have to increase."

Industry sources said the problem has been aggravated by squabbles between Government departments. Since the arising of dividend tax credits, the Treasury has insisted that pension funds will be unaffected.

Ministers at the Department of Social Security are being pressured to change the way the legal minimum is worked out to reflect lower dividends. But this would force the Government into an admission that the Budget had an impact on pension fund returns.

Increasing numbers opt to retire early

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

MORE and more people are taking early retirement, despite the combined effects of the tight jobs market and ageing population, according to a new report. About four out of five employees retiring from big companies did so before reaching the official retirement age.

Early retirement has been widely used as a relatively painless way of shedding labour for more than a decade. But increased awareness of a

mounting pensions burden as the average age of the population rises means the new report, from Incomes Data Services (IDS), will cause some concern.

Only last week the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published a report calling on governments to encourage "active ageing" – including discouraging early retirement. Its experts are concerned the tax system in many countries makes stopping work below normal retirement age too attractive.

The IDS report, in its latest "Pensions Bulletin", based on

a survey covering 1996/97, found that more than 70 per cent of employees were under 60 when they started to draw their pension, and more than 80 per cent were under the "normal retirement age" for their scheme. Most were in their 50s.

In the previous year's survey, two-thirds of employees retired before they reached 60.

Men are far more likely to retire early than women, the survey found. In many cases female employees were twice as likely to stay on until they reached 60. In some companies a majority of staff retire before

they reach the age of 54. These include Alliance and Leicester, Imperial Tobacco and Royal Bank of Scotland, even though all have pension schemes with a normal retirement age of 60.

The fact that 3,000 more teachers retired early contributed to an increase in the total compared with the previous year's survey. This figure could fall back in the current year because favourable terms for stopping work on ill-health grounds came to an end last September.

Other public sector schemes are now considering limiting the availability of ill-health retire-

ment on cost-cutting grounds.

IDS points out that many firms have favoured early retirement rather than redundancy because they have been able to use pension fund surpluses to finance the programmes. This has hidden the real financial cost.

"However, there has been another cost – the loss of experience," the report concludes. Many of the companies that have gone through early retirement programmes now have few employees over the age of 50.

IDS Pensions Service, Bulletin no 115, May 1998. 0171-250 3434.

Yesterday in the markets

STOCK MARKETS

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	6010.30	0.00	0.00	6150.50	4382.80	3.33
FTSE 250	5653.00	0.00	0.00	5653.00	4384.20	2.87
FTSE 350	2895.20	0.00	0.00	2938.70	2141.80	3.25
FTSE All Share	2922.77	0.00	0.00	2951.12	2108.59	3.23
FTSE SmallCap	2656.80	0.00	0.00	2656.80	2182.10	2.95
FTSE MicroCap	1423.80	0.00	0.00	1423.80	1225.20	3.18
FTSE AIM	1083.70	0.00	0.00	1095.70	865.50	1.07
Dow Jones	9208.60	57.05	0.62	9213.33	8971.32	1.52
Nikkei	15901.10	40.16	0.26	16010.73	14488.21	0.97
Hang Seng	10438.42	-124.25	-1.18	10820.31	7900.13	3.83
Dax	5314.56	207.22	4.06	5442.00	3487.24	1.47

INTEREST RATES

Short sterling	UK 10 year gilt	US long bond
3 month 7.47	10 year 7.42	10 year 5.77
6 month 7.01	10 year 7.01	10 year 5.72
1 year 6.59	10 year 6.59	10 year 5.64
2 year 6.22	10 year 6.22	10 year 5.54
3 year 5.85	10 year 5.85	10 year 5.44
4 year 5.48	10 year 5.48	10 year 5.34
5 year 5.11	10 year 5.11	10 year 5.24
6 year 4.74	10 year 4.74	10 year 5.14
7 year 4.37	10 year 4.37	10 year 5.04
8 year 4.00	10 year 4.00	10 year 4.94
9 year 3.63	10 year 3.63	10 year 4.84
10 year 3.26	10 year 3.26	10 year 4.74

CURRENCIES

\$/£	DM/£	¥/£
1.6572	1.8214	161.68
1.6572	1.8214	161.68
1.6572	1.8214	161.68
1.6572	1.8214	161.68
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1.6572	1.8214	161.68
1.6572	1.8214	161.68
1.6572	1.8214	161.68
1.6572	1.8214	161.68

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.4735	Malta (lira)	0.6317
Austria (schillings)	20.43	Mexican (nuevo peso)	12.92
Belgium (francs)	80.08	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2724
Canada (\$)	2.3320	New Zealand (\$)	2.9992
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8498	Portugal (escudos)	206.48
Denmark (krone)	11.16	Spain (pesetas)	166.64
Finland (markka)	8.9884	South Africa (rand)	8.1381
France (francs)	9.7496	Sweden (krona)	12.66
Germany (marks)	2.9188	Switzerland (francs)	2.4435
Greece (dracmas)	504.92	Taiwan (dollars)	36.85
Hong Kong (\$)	12.56	Turkey (liras)	33.82
Ireland (pounds)	11.82	USA (\$)	1.8331
Italy (lira)	81.01		
Japan (yen)	161.68		
South Korea (won)	200.00		
Spain (pesetas)	166.64		
Sweden (krona)	12.66		
Switzerland (francs)	2.4435		
Taiwan (dollars)	36.85		
Turkey (liras)	33.82		
USA (\$)	1.8331		

هكذا من الاصل



GAVYN DAVIES ON WHY THE MARKETS SHOULD DISCOUNT REPORTS OF AN EARLY ENTRY

Don't bank on Britain being in EMU by 2002

THE UNSEEMLY summit row over the appointment of the new president of the European Central Bank was most unfortunate, but it will soon be forgotten. The fact is that the euro has now been launched, and the question of the date of Britain's eventual membership is becoming increasingly real.

Barely a week goes by without a rumour swirling in the financial markets that the UK government is about to spring a huge surprise and announce an early date for membership. This jumpiness is, of course, partly the result of last autumn's spate of conflicting and misleading newspaper headlines which led to unnecessary volatility in financial markets. There is constant fear of another "random" surprise.

In fact, this appears improbable. In recent weeks, the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, has become increasingly insistent about two things. The first is that the UK is now committed in principle to eventual membership of the single currency. The second, however, is that this is not a realistic option for the present Parliament.

According to the forthcoming book on Gordon Brown's first year at the Treasury by Hugh Pym and Nick Kochan, this is precisely the formulation which the pro-EMU Chancellor suggested to the less pro-EMU Prime Minister last autumn. The idea of ruling out Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) membership in the current Parliament was seen as a pro-European manoeuvre, since it would enable the Government to organise a fully-prepared push for membership immediately after the next election. According to Philip Stephens of the *Financial Times*, the Chancellor now favours an early election in 2001, followed by a quick referendum a few months later.

Since it is the pro-EMU camp within

the Government that is arguing against membership in the current Parliament, financial market paranoia about sudden surprises is not well-founded.

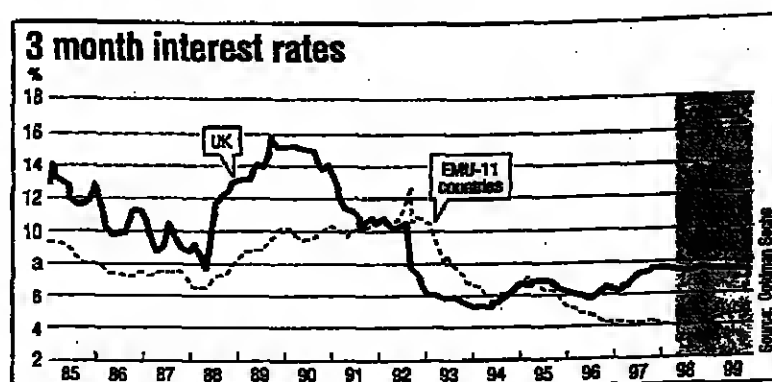
Whatever view is taken about the desirability of EMU in the long term, two factors rule it out as a realistic option for at least four years.

First, sterling is now severely overvalued against the euro, as last week's appalling export data in the CBI Survey demonstrate all too clearly. (Incidentally, these results constitute the kind of genuinely new information which was needed to change the balance between monetary hawks and doves at the Bank of England. Even a staunch supporter of the hawk's case such as myself would now admit that a pause for reflection is required.)

Second, and equally obviously, the stark divergence between the economic cycle in Britain and the rest of the European Union currently makes a one-size-fits-all European monetary policy entirely unsuitable for the UK's needs.

Not everyone accepts this. For example, in the middle of 1997, there were some elements in the Labour Party pressing the Prime Minister to use his political honeymoon to win an immediate EMU referendum. However, with the valuation of sterling and the state of the economic cycle in effect making first-round EMU membership impossible, it would have been absurd to have taken the political risk of a referendum several years in advance of possible membership.

Once that crucial decision had been taken, it became clear that the first possible date for a referendum would be 2000, by which time the early effects of the launch of the euro could be observed. But such a referendum could come in the midst of



mid-term unpopularity for the Government and could therefore prove hard to win. This led to the inescapable conclusion that membership would probably be impractical during the current Parliament.

It is much easier to see that this remains the case at present than it is to plot a clear path to EMU membership after the end of the current Parliament. The Chancellor has laid out five separate economic tests for membership but, in fact, only two considerations seem likely to prove compelling. The first is British politics, and the second is the cyclical convergence between the UK and European economies.

On the political front, there would seem every reason for Tony Blair to like his current position on EMU, and relatively little pressure on him to change it. The Government's commitment in principle to join the euro seems to be enough, for the time being, to keep Labour's pro-European camp happy. Meanwhile, William Hague's opposition to membership for the next two Parliaments is leading to an increasingly open split between the Conservative leadership and British

business, with consequent severe funding problems for the Tories.

All this is, of course, music to Mr Blair's ears, and there seems little reason for him to lance the Conservatives' boil by holding a premature referendum campaign. Why not instead watch Mr Hague wriggle as the pro-European camp inside the Tory Party seeks to change his 10-year commitment to stay outside EMU?

This argument will apply at least up until the next election, but what about the election itself? Might it be sensible to wrap the EMU question into the general election campaign, either by making it an overriding election issue or by holding a referendum on the same day? Almost certainly not — it would be far too risky to hang the life of the Government on such an uncertain issue. Therefore, it seems likely that the question will not be put to the British people until after Mr Blair wins a second term.

But even at that point, a referendum will only be held if it appears overwhelmingly probable that the Government would win. With British business conducting a lengthy campaign in favour, this might be

the case, but there are other factors weighing against it. The European economic cycle might be turning down at around that time, causing the first bout of real political turbulence within the euro area. In addition, a great deal of political flak may be generated when the euro finally replaces national currencies in the shops, and in people's bank accounts, in 2002.

Memories of the political unpopularity of UK decimisation of the coinage in the early 1970s suggest that 2002 may not be a propitious date to ask the British people for their opinion on the euro. If so, then another lengthy delay would become probable, since a referendum in 2003 or thereabouts may once again coincide with mid-term political blues. It is quite possible that this would lead to a further postponement of the issue beyond even the following general election.

The economic cycle also poses great problems. It is not sufficient for UK interest rates briefly to coincide with European rates, since this could be simply a "crossover point" followed by further declines in UK rates and increases in European rates. What is needed is a more permanent convergence, which seems likely to be maintained more or less indefinitely. There is no guarantee that such a high degree of synchronisation will take place at any time in the next five years, or even 10. Finally, at some point the Bank of England will have to be told to "shadow" the euro (instead of inflation) for a two-year period to stabilise exchange rates ahead of joining. This does not seem likely to start ahead of the election.

All in all, the Government may currently intend to join somewhere in the 2001-2002 window, but this is very far indeed from a fait accompli.

Biggest isn't best, warns the Sage of Omaha

WARREN Buffett, America's second-richest man and arguably the world's most successful investor, is sceptical about the recent wave of mega mergers between banks and brokers, even though he owns shares in one of the groups affected.

"I think when you get all through with this, you'll find that some of them are real hits and some of them are misses," said Berkshire Hathaway's chairman and chief executive. "They're very big and those aren't easy to do."

Mr Buffett, 67, is famously silent on his investment intentions, apart from the annual meetings of his company in Omaha, Nebraska. His comments ahead of yesterday's meeting came amid a wave of huge deals in recent months, including the \$72bn (£43bn) merger of Travelers Group and Citicorp, the \$62.5bn marriage of BankAmerica and Nations-

Bank, and the \$28.2bn combination of Banc One and First Chicago/NBD, among others. Mr Buffett, second only to Microsoft's Bill Gates in the US wealth stakes, spoke to reporters before the annual meeting, which drew 10,500 people to his hometown in the Midwest. He gave the interview in Borsheim's, an Omaha jewellery retailer wholly owned by Berkshire. Mr Buffett's 40 per cent stake in Berkshire Hathaway is valued at \$33.1bn, based on Friday's closing price of \$69.300 a share.

Commenting on the banking mega mergers, he said some of the deals will be unsuccessful, even if they make strategic sense. "There's always execution risk, even for a good idea," he said. Berkshire Hathaway owns 23.7 million, or about 2 per cent, of the Travelers shares outstanding.

Mr Buffett wouldn't give his views on specific mergers, though he said Travelers'

chairman, Sanford Weill, didn't consult with him before agreeing to the Citicorp merger.

Mr Buffett also aired his thoughts on the silver market. He said that the fundamentals

'You need high returns on equity to justify present prices ... I have been surprised'

had not changed since his company revealed in February that it had bought about a fifth of the world's known supply of silver.

He declined to say whether the company has sold any silver. Mr Buffett said he did loan a "small" amount of the metal,

but he didn't say how much, when or to whom.

Berkshire Hathaway did sell some of its holdings in McDonald's, the global fast-food chain, last year as part of its efforts to lower the ratio of stocks it held and increase its bond investments.

Mr Buffett didn't say how many McDonald's shares Berkshire Hathaway sold, and said he said he still expects the shares to rise. "We think it's an absolutely first-class company, [though] the fast-food business might be a little tougher than I first thought," Mr Buffett said.

"We cut back on about four or five things," he said. His shareholder letter indicates Berkshire sold shares of Walt Disney, Federal Home Loan Mortgage and Wells Fargo.

Mr Buffett is famous for being a "value" investor who seeks to purchase stocks, bonds and whole businesses at a price that is below their intrinsic worth.

His investment in silver was based on the view that demand over the longer term would be greater than the available supply, he said.

"We thought that the figures on production and demand were such that it would require a higher price to establish equilibrium," he said.

Mr Buffett reiterated his view that the American stock market was not overvalued given the level of long-term interest rates and the "extraordinary" returns on equity produced by US companies.

"If returns on equity stay as they have been the last few years, which have been extraordinary by past standards, and interest rates are here, you can certainly make a case that the market is not overvalued, although I think you would have a hard time saying it was undervalued."

"Neither one of those is a given. On returns on equity, that is an assumption where the

burden of proof would be in the other direction. I don't think it's the way to bet."

"You need these high returns on equity to justify present prices. Charlie [Munger, Berkshire's vice chairman] and I have been surprised by the fact that they have been achieved. Whether they can be sustained over a 10 or 15-year period, there's real questions on that."

Berkshire Hathaway shares have risen by 51 per cent this year, compared with the New York Stock Exchange Composite Index, which has risen 15 per cent. Berkshire also owns businesses outright, including motor insurer Geico and Dexter Shoes.

Berkshire's surge comes at a time when Mr Buffett has complained consistently that he can't find cheap stocks or businesses to buy that meet his standards. Instead, he's turned to "unconventional commitments" like silver and zero-coupon Treasury bonds.

When asked whether international stocks are more attractive because of the high valuations on US stocks, he replied: "We've always looked internationally. We haven't found a lot, but anything that we think we can understand and where we think we can get a lot for our money, we're willing to do."

'It's rare that we find something away from our natural hunting ground'

do. We've done that over the years, not every one of those moves has been apparent to people. "It's rare that we find some-

thing away from our natural hunting ground, but it isn't because we don't look beyond our natural hunting ground. We still try to look at things we think we can understand. Geography doesn't define what we can understand. The nature of the business is much more likely to define it."

Mr Buffett was also asked about his decision to invest in De Beers Centenary, the South African company that is the world's largest diamond producer. Mr Buffett said: "I probably got my first annual report from De Beers in 1952 or 1953. So I've got 40-some years of their reports and we haven't bought any, but we went 30 years between silver purchases too."

"A lot of the time it's obviously been a worry about the political situation. The hold that De Beers has on the diamond market is probably less secure now than it was 30 years ago."

— Bloomberg

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£5,000-9,999	3.75 3.00
£500-4,999	3.40 2.72
£1-499	0.50 0.40
Flexible Savings Account - Paid Monthly	
£25,000+	4.60 3.68
£10,000-24,999	4.25 3.40
£5,000-9,999	3.75 3.00
£500-4,999	3.40 2.72
£1-499	0.50 0.40
Instant Gold Savings Account - Paid Annually	
£50,000+	6.00 4.80
£25,000-49,999	5.70 4.56
£10,000-24,999	5.40 4.32
£2,500-9,999	5.05 4.04
£1-2,499	0.50 0.40
Instant Gold Savings Account - Paid Quarterly	
£50,000+	6.00 4.80
£25,000-49,999	5.70 4.56
£10,000-24,999	5.40 4.32
£2,500-9,999	5.05 4.04
£1-2,499	0.50 0.40

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Why market makers have lived to deal another day

THE WEEK AHEAD



DEREK PAIN

ONLY a few years ago jobbers – or market-makers as they are known in these days of electronic trading – were regarded as an endangered species.

The arrival of order-driven trading (SETS) would, it was felt, leave them scavenging for the discarded trading crumbs. Yet one leading stockbroker is now bidding to become a significant market-maker; three smaller firms are in various stages of launching their own market-making operations and a venture capitalist is planning a summertime debut. Others are thought to be planning a share wholesaling presence.

The simple fact that order driven trading has not been an outstanding success is only partly responsible for the sudden popularity of market-making.

Sets has suffered from rogue trades which have distorted prices to such an extent that even closing Footsie calculations have clearly been inaccurate. The feeling that Sets can be manipulated has created

considerable caution and, after more than six months' existence, the order book is thought to account for less than 40 per cent of the trades in the Footsie and supporting stocks it covers.

Market-makers, operating off the order book, have been reaping rich rewards. They have been able to trade without the transparency they were subjected to under the old, screen-based trading system.

But, of course, much of the stock market is not in the range of the order book and, unless there are widespread improvements, it is unlikely to be.

Pannone Oordoo is the firm pushing for a much bigger market-making presence. It has recruited 14 market-makers from UBS and is covering around 85 per cent of the main market.

The new venture, it is felt, provides an extra service for clients and makes PG a much more rounded investment operation.

Apax Partners, which has made a strong impact on the corporate scene, is the ambitious venture capitalist. Like the three stockbrokers, Durlacher, Raphael Zorn Hensley and Williams de Broe, it is not planning an assault on the big players. The neglected small company sector is the target.

Although shares, on the market's under card, have staged a significant improvement in the past few months, they did, for a long while, limp a long way behind Footsie stocks, producing a two-tier market of high-performing blue chips and down-in-the-dumps also-rans.

One of the reasons advanced for this sad state of affairs was the difficulty often experienced in dealing in the shares of small companies. The lack of liquidity was said to frighten off institutions, worried they could find themselves out of the market.

The shortage of liquidity

also produced wide dealing spreads, a deterrent not only for institutions but for many private investors whose love of small companies is a big, but unappreciated, influence in allowing the market to function.

It is likely that the arrival of more market-makers on the small company pitch will narrow the value gap which has developed.

As Geoffrey Chamberlain of Durlacher points out, a trade in 10,000 shares in an out-of-the-way company can have a dramatic influence on a share price, upsetting the company and often the investor.

Apax regards market-making as a "natural extension" of its corporate finance activities; Durlacher intends to operate in media and technology stocks, its specialist areas, although house shares may also feature.

RZIF is another looking at an area it knows best – general insurance companies which have arrived in recent years. Williams is spreading its net to cover around 120 small companies. It enjoys a strong small companies presence through its corporate side and research. Malcolm Graham-Wood of Williams believes the move should help the companies involved and the firm's investment clients.

Winterflood Securities, which at one time seemed the only market-maker prepared to deal in small companies – it trades in 1,500 – is unruffled by the increased competition. Said Winterflood's Ian Throssell: "Competition is never a bad thing; if the newcomers stimulate interest in small companies, then great."

This week's profits programme includes a clutch of blue chips, ranging from beer to oil, from generators to superstores.

The oil slick comes from British Petroleum and Shell, each offering first-quarter results. The continuing crude price weakness will take its toll and it is unlikely the two giants will offer the market much encouragement.

Whitbread provides the brewing contribution, although beer now represents only 10 per cent of profits as the group has increased its retailing muscle with its restaurant expansion.

Merrill Lynch estimates year's profits will emerge at £358.2m, a £55.4m advance. J Sainsbury is expected to offer year's profits around £720m, a sharp increase on last year but still below the level touched a few years ago.

ScottishPower kicks off the utilities reporting season and profits of around £640m against £558.4m are thought likely. Still, it is its overseas ambitions which are expected to create more interest than its sharp profits advance.

The group last month pulled out of talks to buy a US electricity group. If it had gone ahead it would have enjoyed the distinction of being the first of the privatised utilities to buy so American power group, thus reversing what seems to have become a monotonous one-way journey. It is known to still pursue international ambitions and there are hopes it will spell out its plans.

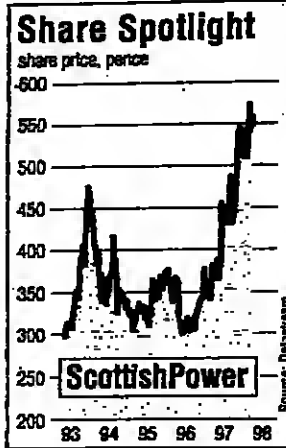
Others due to report this week include Tate & Lyle, BSKB and Hillsdown Holdings.

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Others due to report this week include Tate & Lyle, BSKB and Hillsdown Holdings.



Stock	Price	Weekly	Index
Mecholich Beverages	25.00	+0.10	100
AB	10.00	+0.05	100
ABP	10.00	+0.05	100
ABF	10.00	+0.05	100
ABP	10.00	+0.05	100
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France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium			
Conversion	3.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.44%	Discount	2.75%		
Italy		Prime	6.50%	30 Day		Prime	3.00%		
Switzerland	5.00%	Discount	5.00%	90 Day	4.50%	Switzerland			
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%		
Australia	3.30%	Discount		Repo(Ave)	4.35%	Lombard	3.50%		

Stock	Price	Weekly	Index
ABP	10.00	+0.05	100
ABF	10.00	+0.05	
ABT	10.00	+0.05	
ABX	10.00	+0.05	
ABY	10.00	+0.05	
ABZ	10.00	+0.05	
ABC	10.00	+0.05	
ABD	10.00	+0.05	
ABE	10.00	+0.05	
ABF	10.00	+0.05	
ABG	10.00	+0.05	
ABH	10.00	+0.05	
ABI	10.00	+0.05	
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Boardman aims for fresh start

Cycling

By Robin Nicholl

CHRIS BOARDMAN lines up for today's Tour of Romandie in Basle eager to taste victory after suffering illness and poor form for much of the year.

Last year he was second in the six-day Swiss race, but it was to be a disappointing season for a rider who, in six years, has been a world and Olympic champion, worn the yellow jersey of a Tour de France leader, and set world records.

"I was scarred by poor results and when I got ill early in the season I ignored it somewhat and pushed on with the training," said Boardman. "That was a mistake."

Deciding that he had over-trained, Boardman reviewed his preparation for races, resulting in a change of his methods.

"We cut out the hard two-to-three-hour rides. Those were the ones that did the damage," he said.

In February Boardman was

felled by a bout of influenza: "It hit hard and for a lot longer than I wanted. It left me down for weeks, and only now am I feeling good and consistent," he said. "My condition is the best it has been all season. I just need a chance to prove it in races. The Tour of Romandie has two time trials, so it should be a good race for me."

To win a tour of Romandie's class is a remaining ambition for Boardman, who will be 30 in August. "A stage race of that quality is within my capabilities. It is a big challenge, but if everything is right..."

Last year he won the time trials at either end of the race and went on to triumph for a second time in the Tour de France's curtain-raising time trial in Rouen. The Tour is the natural pinnacle of his year.

"It is not the initial objective to go for the overall classification, so that takes the pressure off me," he said.

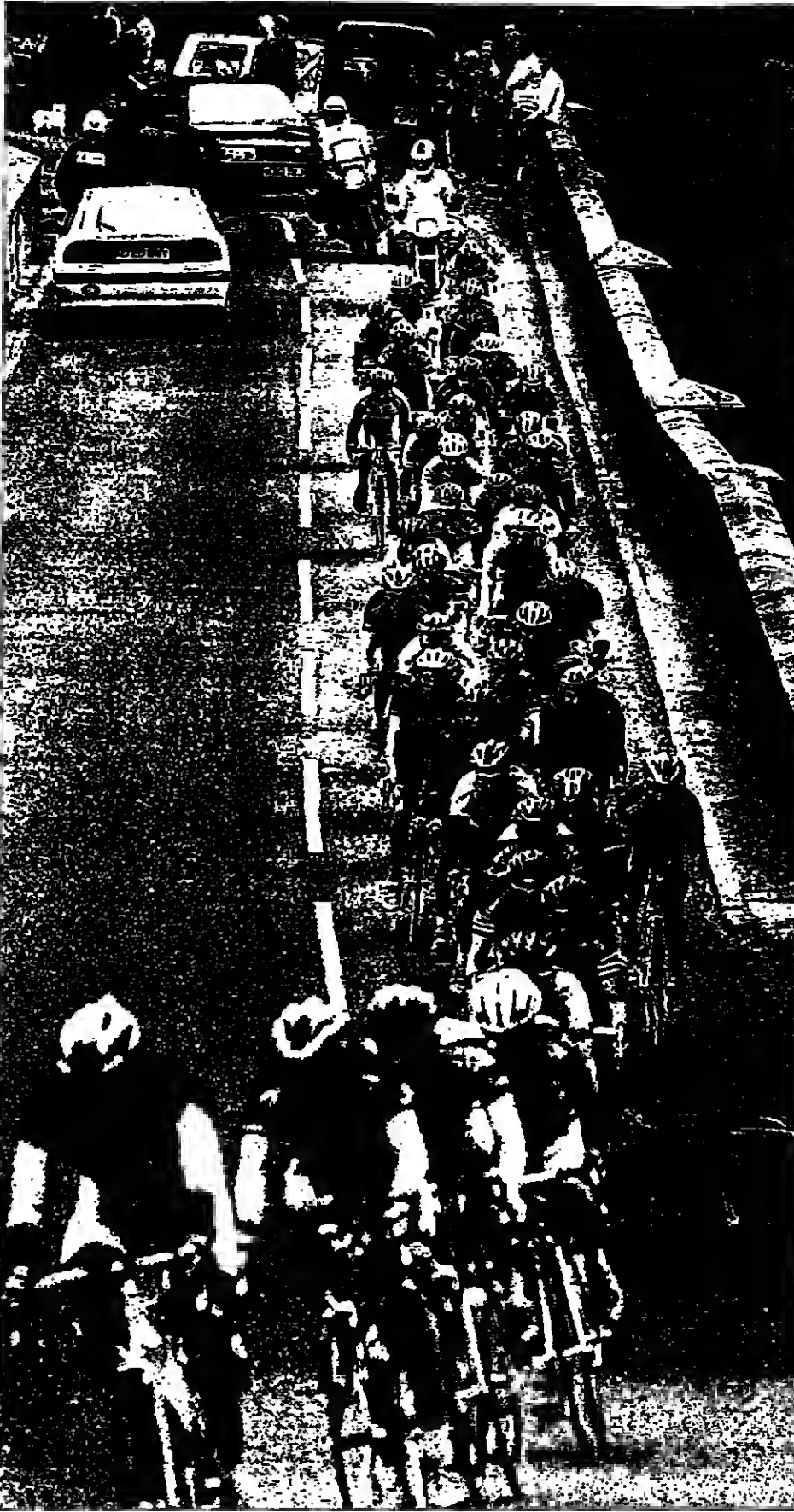
Boardman ended his "poor" year with third place in

the world time trial championship in San Sebastian to complete a set of gold, silver, and bronze medals in the discipline.

"That medal was good, but I have a score to settle," he said. "I want to win the title again, but it is important that all the major players are there this year when it happens, if it happens."

Boardman has come back from worse than his recent run of misfortune. After a three-year spell that saw him take Olympic gold in the 4,000 metres pursuit on the Barcelona track in 1992, break the world hour record in 1993, take the world time trial titles and wear the coveted Tour de France yellow jersey on his debut in 1994, the 1995 Tour broke his progress.

He crashed within minutes of starting his second Tour, fracturing a wrist and an ankle. Yet the next year Boardman recaptured the world hour record and the world pursuit crown at the Manchester track.



The Tour of Lancashire field tackles Longridge Fell yesterday. Photograph: Barry Greenwood

Brite continue 'faultless' run

JON CLAY and his Brite team continue to ride high in British cycling. They swept to victory in the Travelwise four-day tour of Lancashire to remain unbeaten after eight Premier Calendar races, writes Robin Nicholl.

The Yorkshireman, 34, described his team as "faultless" after they defended his winning lead of one minute and four seconds over five tough laps of Longridge Fell near Preston yesterday.

"We have ridden so strongly that no one could have a go at us," said Clay, who first won the Lancashire tour six years ago and has now contributed four of his team's major suc-

cesses this year. They have already won a place in Britain's new international stage race, the Proutour, which starts in three weeks' time.

"Obviously, we will become an average team to that company. We just don't have the preparation and therefore the same ability as the Europeans," Clay said. "We certainly want to steal something from that race, though. A stage win would be super."

They also have high-flying ambitions for next weekend's programme. Clay will defend his British 10-mile time-trial title in Cambridgeshire on Sunday, then he and three

team-mates will be flown by helicopter to start their next Premier Calendar race, the Lincoln Grand Prix, only hours later.

Victory in yesterday's final leg of the 260-mile race went to Gary Adamson, riding for the Tour sponsor's own team. He outsprinted the pack at the end of an 87.5 mile race in Longridge.

TRAVELWISE TOUR OF LANCASHIRE, fifth and final stage (87.5 miles): 1. G. Adamson (Travelwise), 2. S. Hoggins (CC), 3. A. Wain (PDM Sports), 4. M. McKay (Harrods), 5. M. Wignworth (Brite), 6. C. Fennell (Brite); all same time as winner. First overall position: 1. J. Clay (Brite), 2. S. Hoggins (CC), 3. A. Wain (PDM Sports), 4. M. McKay (Harrods), 5. M. Wignworth (Brite), 6. C. Fennell (Brite); all same time as winner. First overall position: 1. J. Clay (Brite), 2. S. Hoggins (CC), 3. A. Wain (PDM Sports), 4. M. McKay (Harrods), 5. M. Wignworth (Brite), 6. C. Fennell (Brite); all same time as winner.

Leslie claims second win of the season

Motor racing

By Nick Phillips

DAVID LESLIE became the first driver this season to win a second Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship race, when he brought his Nissan Primera home first in round six at Donington Park.

Despite that, it is not Leslie or any of the other five drivers to win this year who leads the points standings - but Honda's admirably consistent James Thompson. The series is shaping up to be the most open for years.

The other winner in front of the Bank Holiday crowd was the 1995 champion, John Cleland, who took his first victory since his championship season in the shorter Sprint race (round five), showing that Vauxhall is right back in the fight. He rammed home the point with a stroog run to third place in the longer Feature race.

Leslie's win was a comfortable one, the Nissan driver only

surrendering the lead in the period when the drivers made their compulsory pit-stops. He was chased early on by Cleland, but a slow pit stop put the Vauxhall driver down to fourth behind the defending champion, Alain Menu, and Honda's James Thompson.

Cleland fought back past Thompson, who held on to fourth, despite a late challenge from Jason Plato in the Renault. Plato's drive from the back of the grid (following a technical infringement in qualifying) was a highlight of the race.

Cleland's Sprint win was founded on a brilliant start from third place on the grid which put him straight into the lead. A group of drivers snapped at his heels, led by Thompson's Honda and Rickard Rydell's Volvo.

Plato was fourth for much of the distance, but when Leslie tried to pass in the closing stages the pair collided and neither finished. Meou eventually taking fourth place in his Renault.

Knowles follows Catton out

Basketball

By Richard Taylor

THE command structure of the English Basketball Association continued to disintegrate yesterday with the resignation of its chairman, Peter Knowles, following last month's departure of the chief executive, Steve Catton.

Knowles played a key role in Manchester's successful bid for the 2002 Commonwealth Games and the association cited his growing responsibility in this area as "the key factor in his resignation." Knowles, a former referee, also played a key role in mediating in the public

bust-up between Catton and the England senior men's coach, Laszlo Nemeth, who criticised the England programme just days before a European Championship game against Israel.

Knowles, although publicly diplomatic, despaired of Nemeth's criticism, which came in the week the association learned a £1.8m Lottery bid had failed. Knowles said at the time: "None of this can be helped."

Nemeth was suspended, but reinstated after Catton resigned. Nemeth leads England into a friendly international tournament against Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands in Manchester this weekend.

PHILIPS



Today we publish the updated results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. Due to the holiday period fully updated results will appear on Sunday 10th May. The league table includes all scores up to APRIL 27th. The player list includes scores from all games played until April 27th. Neither set of scores includes results from the FA Cup. The overall winner at the end of the season will win a pair of tickets to the World Cup finals in France this summer.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count. The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose. Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the following Sunday in The Independent on Sunday.

HOW TO SCORE			
Player score	1	Goal scored	4
Clean sheet	1	Winning goal	1
Successful assist	3	Yellow card	-1
Red card	-3	Manager's team wins	3
Draw	0		

Independent Fantasy Football

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 27 APRIL

LEAGUE TABLE			
CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 27 APRIL			
POS	NAME	TEAM	SCORE
1	Mr D Edmington	Edmo United	1082
2	Mr C King	Seeking Victory	1077
2	Mr P Tuller	Pin Ups 4	1077
2	Mr D Evans	Boothend End Old Boys	1077
2	Mr J Cox	Southville FC	1077
6	Mr Archer	No Wright	1075
7	Mr J Hayes	Early Birds	1074
8	Mr B Sari	Simply The Best	1065
9	Mr I Boyle	Wembley Bounders	1064
9	Mr A Wignrove	Tony's Boys	1064
9	Mr T Lyons	Diana's Demons	1062
12	Mr D Baker	Deja Vu	1057
13	Mr S Scott	Unbeatable	10546
14	Mr M Pawley	Robert's Raiders	1054
15	Mr D Sari	The Uotouchables	1054
15	Mr D Aston	Billy's Boys 2nd 11	1049
17	Mr G Bell	The Hairy Monsters	1047
18	Mr S Scott	The Dream Team	1045
19	Mr K Boyle	Clogston Rovers	1043
20	Mr A Choudi	Nikes 9th 11	1042
21	Mr M Ewins	Mikes C Team	1038
22	Mr S Mann	Rebecca Rovers	1036
23	Miss L Wild	Amerretto FC	1035
24	Mr T Brazier	Wow For Short	1031
25	Mr M Ewins	I've Started But Will I Finish	1031
25	Mr M Ewins	Mikes A Team	1031
25	Mr A Mitchell	The Eye For It	1031
25	Mr D Aston	Billy's Boys 3rd 11	1030
29	Mr P Cridland	PDC2	1030
29	Mr G Bell	Stunning Struts	1029
31	Mr J McCrossam	Washed Up Army	1028
32	Mr M Ewins	Mikes A Team	1025
32	Mr I Brown	The Hoofers	1025
33	Mr J McCrossam	Washed Up Army	1022
35	Mr D Ackroyd	Jacks Lads	1020
36	Mr A Mitchell	Nursery Park Rovers	1020
36	Mr N Peat	Tim's Tiger	1019
38	Mr M Mitchell	Induring Image	1019
38	Mr G Whitebread	Treen Team	1017
40	Mr S Hogg	Hog's Train	1017
40	Mr D McCarr	McCarr 11	1017

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WE	OF	VALUE	(£)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WE	OF	VALUE	(£)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WE	OF	VALUE	(£)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WE	OF	VALUE	(£)
GOALKEEPERS																											
300	Sutton	ARS	5	71	40		303	Lake	ARS	5	0	0		306	Bonich	AV	1	60	40		307	Nelson	BAR	0	12	10	
301	Myer	ARS	0	0	30		304	Calos	AV	0	0	15		308	Leese	BAR	0	12	10		309	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
302	Myer	ARS	0	0	30		305	Myer	ARS	0	0	30		310	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		311	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
303	Lake	ARS	5	71	40		306	Bonich	AV	1	60	40		312	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		313	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
304	Calos	AV	0	0	15		307	Nelson	BAR	0	12	10		314	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		315	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
305	Myer	ARS	0	0	30		308	Leese	BAR	0	12	10		316	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		317	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
306	Bonich	AV	1	60	40		309	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		318	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		319	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
307	Nelson	BAR	0	12	10		310	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		320	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		321	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
308	Leese	BAR	0	12	10		322	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		323	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		324	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
309	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		325	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		326	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		327	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
310	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		328	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		329	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		330	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
311	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		331	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		332	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		333	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
312	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		334	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		335	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		336	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
313	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		337	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		338	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		339	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
314	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		340	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		341	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		342	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
315	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		343	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		344	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		345	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
316	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		346	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		347	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		348	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
317	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		349	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		350	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		351	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
318	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		352	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		353	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		354	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
319	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		355	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		356	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		357	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
320	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		358	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		359	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		360	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
321	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		361	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		362	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		363	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
322	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		364	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		365	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		366	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
323	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		367	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		368	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		369	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
324	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		370	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		371	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		372	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
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329	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		385	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		386	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		387	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
330	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		388	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		389	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		390	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
331	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		391	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		392	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		393	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
332	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		394	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		395	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		396	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
333	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		397	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		398	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		399	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
334	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		400	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		401	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		402	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
335	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		403	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		404	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		405	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
336	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		406	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		407	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		408	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
337	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		409	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		410	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		411	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
338	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		412	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		413	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		414	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
339	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		415	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		416	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		417	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
340	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		418	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		419	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		420	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
341	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		421	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		422	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		423	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
342	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		424	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		425	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		426	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
343	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		427	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		428	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		429	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
344	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		430	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		431	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		432	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
345	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		433	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		434	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		435	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
346	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		436	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		437	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		438	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
347	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		439	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		440	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		441	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
348	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		442	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		443	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		444	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
349	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		445	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		446	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		447	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
350	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		448	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		449	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		450	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
351	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		451	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		452	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		453	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
352	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		454	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		455	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		456	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
353	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		457	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		458	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		459	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
354	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		460	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		461	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		462	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
355	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		463	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		464	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		465	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
356	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		466	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		467	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		468	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
357	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		469	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		470	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		471	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
358	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		472	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		473	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		474	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
359	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		475	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		476	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		477	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
360	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		478	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		479	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		480	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
361	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		481	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		482	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		483	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
362	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		484	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		485	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		486	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
363	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		487	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		488	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15		489	Flowers	BLA	0	37	15	
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Darren Robinson does his Graham Gooch impersonation as he hits Neil Johnson for four on his way to another century yesterday. Photograph: Peter Jay

Robinson wreaks more havoc to shatter Ireland

One Irishman to emerge with credit was the opening bowler Ryan Eagleson, who had a return of one for 36 off his 10 overs, no small feat given the havoc being wreaked all around him.

The Essex total, the third highest in the competition's 50-over format and the fifth highest in Cup history, proved

way beyond Ireland's range. Neil Johnson (53) and Ed Joyce (42) did their bit, but it was token resistance. The Essex bowling was mean cuisine by comparison.

Lewis takes exhausted Somerset bowling apart

Turner took the score to 99, before Rose swung wildly at Mark Alleyne and had his stumps

That provided the breakthrough as Somerset slipped in 110 for seven, before rallying through Reeve and the left-hander Trescothick.

Their eighth-wicket stand of 61 in nine overs produced a glimmer of hope, but the required run-rate had risen above nine an over when Reeve was bowled swinging across the line at Lewis.

Cricket scoreboard

Benson & Hedges Cup
One-day matches

Derbyshire vs Yorkshire

Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

Derbyshire

Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

Derbyshire

Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

Derbyshire

Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

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Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

Derbyshire

Derbyshire vs Yorkshire at Derbyshire by 26 runs.
Derbyshire won by 26 runs.

Essex vs Ireland
Championship: Ireland vs Ireland by 117 runs.

Essex

Essex vs Ireland at Essex by 117 runs.
Essex won by 117 runs.

Essex

Essex vs Ireland at Essex by 117 runs.
Essex won by 117 runs.

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Essex vs Ireland at Essex by 117 runs.
Essex won by 117 runs.

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Essex vs Ireland at Essex by 117 runs.
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Essex vs Ireland at Essex by 117 runs.
Essex won by 117 runs.

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Essex vs Ireland at Essex by 117 runs.
Essex won by 117 runs.

Gloucestershire vs Somerset
Championship: Gloucestershire vs Somerset by 26 runs.

Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire vs Somerset at Gloucestershire by 26 runs.
Gloucestershire won by 26 runs.

Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire vs Somerset at Gloucestershire by 26 runs.
Gloucestershire won by 26 runs.

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Gloucestershire won by 26 runs.

Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire vs Somerset at Gloucestershire by 26 runs.
Gloucestershire won by 26 runs.

Leicestershire vs Warwickshire
Championship: Leicestershire vs Warwickshire by 26 runs.

Leicestershire

Leicestershire vs Warwickshire at Leicestershire by 26 runs.
Leicestershire won by 26 runs.

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Leicestershire won by 26 runs.

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Leicestershire vs Warwickshire at Leicestershire by 26 runs.
Leicestershire won by 26 runs.

Northants vs Nottinghamshire
Championship: Northants vs Nottinghamshire by 26 runs.

Northants

Northants vs Nottinghamshire at Northants by 26 runs.
Northants won by 26 runs.

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Northants won by 26 runs.

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Northants vs Nottinghamshire at Northants by 26 runs.
Northants won by 26 runs.

Worcestershire vs Warwickshire
Championship: Worcestershire vs Warwickshire by 26 runs.

Worcestershire

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Worcestershire won by 26 runs.

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Today won by 26 runs.

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Today vs **Today** at **Today** by 26 runs.
Today won by 26 runs.

Racing results

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Gulland has to make Derby case

By Greg Wood

IT WAS not difficult immediately after the Craven Stakes at Newmarket last month to spot those who had backed Gulland for the Derby before the race. The air of smugness surrounding them, not to mention the heat from the 25-1 tickets burning holes in their pockets, could be felt 20 yards away, such was the promise of Gulland's narrow defeat by the horse everyone reckoned was a certainty for the 2,000 Guineas, Xaar.

Three weeks later, the confident grin is less apparent and the holiday plans are on hold. True, Gulland is still

among the favourites for Epsom, and at odds far removed from those available before the Craven, but the form of that race has taken two heavy blows to the body. First there was the dismal performance of Circus, who finished third at Newmarket, in the Classic Trial at Sandown, and then the failure of Xaar to win the Guineas. If the form of Gulland's seasonal debut was that of a Derby winner, it seems that the horse cannot rely on others to prove the point. Instead, he must do so himself in today's Chester Vase, in which nothing but a clear-cut win will do.

Just four opponents line up

against Gulland, and it is of little help to punters that one of his more significant rivals is a fellow resident of Geoff Wragg's stable, Ridgeway. With Peter Chapple-Hyam also saddling

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Almond Rock (Chester 3.40)
NB: Golden Silca (Chester 2.10)

two runners, the race is something of the private sweepstakes. Tactics may play their part too with such a small field, and the first point to make is that it is hardly a race to treat as a serious betting medium. Gulland

has every right to start as favourite, not least since all the signs are that the eight furlongs of the Craven Stakes was very much a minimum trip, and significant improvement can be anticipated over today's Derby trip of a mile and a half. A muddling pace or an adverse reaction to Chester's unique topography could easily be enough to beat him, though, and careful post-race study of the result is the only investment worth making.

The same is true, in fact, of much of today's televised card, since coverage does not extend to the competitive handicaps - one of them a Showcase race - which close proceedings.

Instead, the programme opens with a juvenile event, which Golden Silca (2.10) should win from his prime draw, and a maiden who holds Derby clues of its own.

These are of the oblique variety, since Hawadeth and Way Out Yonder both attempt to open their account following good runs behind Greek Dance at Newmarket last month. Greek Dance is a 14-1 chance for Epsom after his success at Headquarters, and will be a little shorter this evening if either of those two wins today, but it may be that he, like Gulland, will have to prove himself personally, since Quintus (2.40) re-

turns to maiden company after some good runs in handicaps.

The only handicap for Channel 4 viewers is a slightly sub-standard event given the usual quality of this meeting. Most of those to have run this season have not shown any form worth relying on, so it may be that FLINT KNAPPER (nap 3.40), a lightly raced handicapper who finished his 1997 campaign with an impressive victory, can continue where he left off. Deme-lition Jo (next best 4.10) is also worth a modest interest.

CHESTER VASE: Stayers: 1-2 Gulland, 4-1 The Show-Worm, 12-1 Golden Silca, 12-1 Ridgeway, 14-1 Sargent; 2-5 Gulland, 2-6 The Show-Worm, 12-1 Ridgeway, 12-1 Golden Silca, 12-1 Sargent.

CRESTER
2.10: QUEENSLAND STAR, who looked a useful performer in the making when battling on well to score on her debut at the Newmarket Craven meeting, can go in again. Stable mate Larkland Gold may pose the most problems.

2.40: QUINTUS, who ran a second race when a length third at Newmarket and Noble Demand in a competitive 11 of 21 handicap at the Newmarket Craven meeting, can gain compensation today in what looks a much weaker affair. Hawadeth is the main danger.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

3.10: GULLAND, who ran the subsequent 2,000 Guineas fourth, Xaar, to a neck in the Craven Stakes over a mile at Newmarket on his reappearance, should really come into his own over this distance and will be very hard to beat. Sargent will be on his debut but he, like The Glow-Worm, has much more on his plate here.

3.40: GROOM'S GORDON, who should be fitter for his seventh than he was at Sandown on his seasonal debut, is fairly treated. The selection is unproven at this distance but has every chance of lasting home around this tight circuit. The danger may be Almond Rock, who looks well handicapped on his best form. Seaflash seems best on all-weather surfaces while Pilot Knapper and Party Romance are expected to be fitter for the race. Alamy, Break The Rules and 1 Cant Remember, who has been opposed while Rheinholt and Rebel County are out of form.

First show

Chester - 3.40				
Horse	C	N	L	T
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1

Chester - 4.10

Chester - 4.10				
Horse	C	N	L	T
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1

Chester - 4.40

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Horse	C	N	L	T
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
Alamy	10-1	4-1	2-1	1-1
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FORM GUIDE

There was less than a length between Hawadeth and Way Out Yonder when they were second and fourth in Greek Dance at Newmarket and it is difficult to know which will come out on top. Hawadeth was racing for the first time, but Way Out Yonder's superior may give him the edge on this very different track. With Greek Dance prominent in the Derby, Hawadeth and Way Out Yonder cannot be overlooked. Greek Dance's trainer, Michael Stoute, has been very successful in the past, and his horses have won the Derby, the 2,000 Guineas, the 1,000 Guineas, the 1,200 Guineas, the 1,400 Guineas, the 1,600 Guineas, the 1,800 Guineas, the 2,000 Guineas, the 2,200 Guineas, the 2,400 Guineas, the 2,600 Guineas, the 2,800 Guineas, the 3,000 Guineas, the 3,200 Guineas, the 3,400 Guineas, the 3,600 Guineas, the 3,800 Guineas, the 4,000 Guineas, the 4,200 Guineas, the 4,400 Guineas, the 4,600 Guineas, the 4,800 Guineas, the 5,000 Guineas, the 5,200 Guineas, the 5,400 Guineas, the 5,600 Guineas, the 5,800 Guineas, the 6,000 Guineas, the 6,200 Guineas, the 6,400 Guineas, the 6,600 Guineas, the 6,800 Guineas, the 7,000 Guineas, the 7,200 Guineas, the 7,400 Guineas, the 7,600 Guineas, the 7,800 Guineas, the 8,000 Guineas, the 8,200 Guineas, the 8,400 Guineas, the 8,600 Guineas, the 8,800 Guineas, the 9,000 Guineas, the 9,200 Guineas, the 9,400 Guineas, the 9,600 Guineas, the 9,800 Guineas, the 10,000 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128,600 Guineas, the 128,800 Guineas, the 129,000 Guineas, the 129,200 Guineas, the 129,400 Guineas,

The title is history: As the Gunners celebrate their triumph, Arsène Wenger is thinking only of the future. Glenn Moore reports



The Arsenal captain, Tony Adams, leads his title-winning side to collect the Premiership trophy at Highbury on Sunday after their 4-0 win over Everton had confirmed them as champions

Photograph: David Ashdown

Arsenal focus on European horizon

ARSENAL Wenger's face may have been uncommonly joyous as he strolled around Highbury on Sunday afternoon but behind the smile it was business as usual.

As he took in the delight from North Bank to Clock End he was thinking: "They are so happy. How can I keep them like that?" He said yesterday: "It was one of the first questions I had in my mind as I was walking around the field. That is why this is a crazy job, you always forget to enjoy the present. You are always planning for the future."

In football, as in business (if there is still a difference), to stand still is to be overtaken. Wenger's first task is to steer Arsenal to success in the FA Cup. Then it is to decide his own future. He has one year left on his contract and has spoken, in the past, of leaving a foundation at Arsenal but then moving

on. Even in triumph there was a valedictory note about his comments, a sense of licking another achievement off his list.

"I have an agreement to talk to the directors after the Cup final. We will sort out my future then. I have won other things but this success has the biggest meaning for me as it is the biggest football country I have worked in. I am proud to have won something here. It was always my dream to work in England."

Yet even if he wins the FA Cup and, consequently, the Double, he still has something to aim for at Highbury, something he has not achieved anywhere. The man who brought the ideas of the Continent to Arsenal now leads Arsenal into Europe's Champions League.

Already the big players, and a few less noted names, are booking their place in the annual moosey-maker. Arsenal will join Ajax, Barcelona and al-

most certainly, Juventus, in the group stages along with Porto, the unexpected German champions, Kaiserslautern, probably Lens and possibly Real Madrid.

If Real fail to beat Juventus in this season's final on 20 May they will need to win a tense race for second place in Spain

to join Manchester United, Bayern Munich, Bobby Robson's PSV Eindhoven, Graeme Souness' Benfica, probably Internazionale, and others in the qualifying round.

It is an impressive array and Wenger reluctantly accepts that, as Manchester United have found, his team will need strengthening if they are to maintain a challenge at home and abroad.

"I am happy with the players I have and am more interested in keeping them than buying others. But you do need a big squad to do well in both

competitions, the Champions' League takes a lot of energy."

Wenger said he believed Jan Wright would stay at the club and also expects more from his young players. "They will improve through the high level of competition," he said.

"Nicholas Anelka, for example,

is quick to learn. He will be a great player."

Arsenal have moosey hut buying players will not be easy. The side is very well balanced and anyone good enough to strengthen it may disrupt both the pattern and the wage structure - which tends to affect team spirit, so vital a component in their success.

Wenger believes the defence can continue to defy the years but he is sure to look for more young players, like Matthew Upson, who can be slowly introduced into the side. More cover is required elsewhere but do not expect him to sign the unknown who becomes a star in France this summer.

"The World Cup is the worst place to buy players, the competition is so different. I prefer to see players at their clubs," he said. Several are already under consideration. Although Arsenal won the European Cup-Winners' Cup

under George Graham in 1994 and were runners-up the following year, they do not have a good record in the stronger Champions' and UEFA Cups.

The '89 champions did not enter due to the post-Heysel ban but the '91 vintage went out in the second round, comprehensively outplayed at home by Benfica.

Having gone out of last year's UEFA Cup in the first round, beaten home and away by Borussia Mönchengladbach, they surprisingly fell at the same stage this season against PAOK Salonika.

The decisive factor in both these ties may have been the absence of Bergkamp from the away legs.

The Player of the Year is still to overcome his fear of flying and Arsenal's progress may depend on the draw. Ajax, Bruges, and Leeds? No problem. Spartak Moscow, Olympiakos and Galatasaray? Oh dear.

Another trophy for the Gunners

By Adam Szreter
at the New Den

Arsenal 3
Croydon 2

ARSENAL'S perfect Bank Holiday weekend was completed when a goal by the England international Kelley Fee in the third minute of injury time gave them a 3-2 victory over Croydon in the CSI FA Women's Cup final yesterday.

Croydon opened the scoring yesterday, slightly against the run of play after 10 minutes, when Kirsty Penning brought down the marauding Julie Fletcher in the penalty area and the former Arsenal striker, in Broadhurst, scored from the spot.

Seven minutes later, Arsenal were level. Julie Darby was dismissed by Rachel Yankey whose cross fell invitingly for Marianne Spacey to attempt a spectacular volley, but she completely miscued. The ball looped up agonisingly beyond Louise Cooper in the Croydon

goal and in off the far post. Arsenal stepped up a gear at the start of the second half and were rewarded with another bizarre goal in the 52nd minute.

Yankey, put through by Vicki Slee, seemed second favourite in the race for the ball as Cooper came off her line but the Croydon keeper missed her kick and Yankey was left with the simplest of tap-ins.

Three minutes later, though, Cooper's opposite number, Sarah Reed, hammered a clear-cut goal straight at her own defender Carol Harwood and Hope Powell was on hand to steal an equaliser.

Thereafter, Croydon looked the more likely winners, but with time running out Spacey's 25 yard free-kick was parried on to the head by Cooper and there was time for the ball over the line.

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Phil Shaw looks at the muddled thinking behind a Mancunian institution's unprecedented fall

When the decline started is almost as difficult as establishing where it will all end. Some argue that the rot set in a quarter of a century ago, when the Reds went down and the Blues wasted the chance to become the city's top team.

The weakness of such logic is that it defines City, whose appeal is traditional and parochial, purely in relation to the nationally and globally popular United. While the fact that City last won a trophy in 1976 appears to pinpoint the beginning of their slide, the theory overlooks the extent to which the club later reassessed their place among the élite.

In both 1991 and '92, City finished a respectable fifth in the top flight. A year later, when United ended 26 years of hurt by winning the inaugural Premier League, City came ninth (one place above Arsenal). Yet it was within that period of relative success that the seeds of Sunday's sorrows were probably sown.

The first major blow was the defection of Howard Kendall, a manager then at the peak of his powers, back to Everton in 1990. The second was Swales' panic decision to sack Peter Reid, who had built promisingly on Kendall's legacy, after City gained only one point from three matches at the start of 1993-94.

Reid's exit unleashed frustrations among supporters

which Francis Lee exploited. He finally became chairman at the start of 1994, but the "Forward with Franny Campaign" now looks like a bitterly ironic title.

If things were bad then - City lay 20th in the Premier League though they still had players like Quinn, Curle, Lomas, McMahon and Coton - Lee's reign makes Swales' 20 years resemble a golden age. A member of City's championship class of '68, he never had the financial muscle needed to keep pace with United at all.

Lee's judgement was often poor. His appointment of his friend Alan Ball, a manager

who promptly lived up to his reputation for taking teams down, was bad enough. But one tragicomic episode was invariably superseded by another, although Frank Clark initially made progress last season after becoming City's fifth manager in four months, he spent badly.

Joe Royle, brought in before Lee's resignation in February, could not keep them up despite a 5-2 win at Stoke. He has already hinted at a summer of upheaval. "There will be some soul-searching and big decisions made... about the staff, future planning and the players who'll be here next season - and those who won't."

Sadly, the latter category includes the Ajax-bound George Kinkladze, around whose mercurial talents a succession of

managers have tried to build a team. With a staggering 54 professionals on the books - many on fat Premiership wages - the Georgian is the least of Royle's problems. One high earner, Nigel Clough, has spent the entire season in the Pontins League.

Yesterday, as the Maine Road 30,000 faced up to the reality that City will be joining the local non-League hopefuls in the first round of the FA Cup, not to mention playing in the Auto Windscreens Shield, Lee's successor David Bernstein offered them a "clear and unequivocal" apology.

In a message to supporters, he said: "For the best part of two decades you have had to put up with a total lack of success, culminating in two relegations in three years. Failure over such a period is inexcusable and can not be explained by bad luck or chance, particularly by a club with our support and resources. The club have coarsely reacted to events and have not been helped by frequent changes in personnel."

City now had a "hands-on, high-quality board", determined to reverse the culture of calamity. "We ask for your continued support," Bernstein concluded, no doubt with an eye on season-ticket sales. Yet with a manager bent on a clear-out and a chairman promising stability, things may get worse before they get better.



Today's fixtures

Football

7.30 unless stated

FA CUP: Arsenal v Liverpool

12.45: Arsenal v Liverpool

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